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"Just as the health of a person is ascertained by feeling the pulse, the growth of a nation can be judged by looking at its roads."

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat on 20.06.2018, conferred the Avvaiyar Award for 2018 on Thirumathi Chinnapillai Perumal who heads the Kalanjiyam Women's Self Help Group of Pillucheri Village in Madurai District.

Alternative model mooted for mobilising resources in post GST era

Chief Minister suggests indirect tax revenue should go to the States

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Fourth Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held on 17th June, 2018 at New Delhi.

Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Hon'ble Home Minister,

Hon'ble Union Ministers,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors,

Hon'ble Vice Chairman and Members of NITI Aayog,

Senior Officials!

Vanakkam!

I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for convening this meeting. This is an important forum that allows us to discuss matters of shared interest.

- Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 was launched by our late Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi

Amma, on 24.03.2012. The goals of our vision document constitute monitorable and measurable outcomes with positive impact on the lives of our people. This document is widely acclaimed as a path-breaking model in perspective planning for good governance, inclusive growth and development that touches the life of the every citizen in Tamil Nadu.

- Every State in India is culturally and socially diverse. Their development needs are different. Schemes formulated by State Governments respond to varied local realities and needs. It is, therefore, necessary that India's 'Development Agenda 2022' is built on State perspective plans, as well as incorporate flexibility. For this to happen, the Government of India has to take on a new role – the role of a facilitator. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir, this is definitely possible under your dynamic leadership.

2. AGRICULTURE SECTOR:

MEASURES TO DOUBLE FARMER'S INCOME

- I am convinced that unless farm production and productivity is improved through sustainable agriculture and water-efficient irrigation, real improvements in farmers' income would take time to realize. We need to promote agricultural diversification through horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries and institutionalize a workable comprehensive social safety net to cushion farmers from sudden economic and natural shocks.

- The focus of this meeting on doubling farmers' income has to be achieved by a combination of measures such as e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), soil health cards, backward and forward market linkages, water conservation and enhancement in water use efficiency for irrigation purposes.

(a) e-NAM (e-National Agriculture Market)

- Allocation under the e-NAM Scheme at Rs.75 lakh per market hinders them from realizing their full potential. In Tamil Nadu, there are 30 regulated markets being integrated with e-NAM in two phases. Amendments have already been made in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Marketing Regulation Act, 1987, to include e-trading, single point market fee levy and unified single licence. I am pleased to note that the Government of India has already approved 15 regulated markets each, under Phase I and II.

To strengthen infrastructure and assaying facilities in the 30 regulated markets, I request the Union Government to release the balance amount of Rs. 13.50 crore under this Scheme.

(b) **SOIL HEALTH CARD**

- Improving and maintaining soil fertility is vital for obtaining potential yield of crop varieties and doubling income of farmers. We were the first in the country to launch distribution of 'Farmers Integrated Handbook', the brain child of my most respected leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma

in 2011-2012. In 2018-2019, in order to ensure 100% adoption of soil health card based fertilizer recommendation, we plan to take up a pilot project in 100 Villages in the State. In addition, 4,270 demonstrations are proposed in the current year's action plan to show the effects of soil health card based recommendations. I would like to point out that this Scheme will be successful only if soil testing facilities are taken to the farmers and they are motivated to use these facilities on a regular basis.

(c) **RURAL / AGRICULTURE HAAT**

- Improvement of rural agriculture market is key to increase market access for agricultural commodities. The Central Government should support the States in establishing Farmers' Co-operative Market for fruits and vegetables in major urban areas with required infrastructure and transport facilities. This would eliminate middlemen and enable small farmers to directly sell their produce and obtain best price in urban areas.
- Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), it is proposed to improve 50 Village shandies during the current year with proper facilities at a cost of Rs.40 lakh each.

(d) **MGNREGS AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS WATER CONSERVATION**

- In Tamil Nadu, out of 385 blocks, 179 have been identified as over-exploited and 36 as critical as regards the availability of ground water. Of these, 15 blocks have been designated as both over-exploited and critical by the Central Ground Water Resources Board. To improve water resource conservation under MGNREGS during 2017-2018, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a number of initiatives.
- These include construction of 20,000 check dams, 250-KM of stone bunding, 15,000 KM of earthen bunding, afforestation activities, 15,000 recharge pits / shafts and 2 lakh individual and community soak pits for managing grey water release from rural households, etc.
- Satellite maps are used for planning and execution of water conservation works. Under MGNREGS, afforestation activities with 69 lakh saplings are being carried out in co-ordination with Forest Department in the targetted areas especially the Government / Common Lands, Village Panchayat lands to increase the green cover. Avenue plantation on both sides of roads is also being undertaken.

KUDIMARAMATH SCHEME

- 'Kudimaramath' is an age old practice in Tamil Nadu wherein waterbodies were maintained through community participation. Now, Tamil Nadu Government has taken a policy decision to revive this scheme and restore water bodies through user communities. Works under Kudimaramath include maintenance works in supply channels, canals, tanks, etc. 10% of the estimate cost is borne by the Farmers' Organizations in the form of

labour or materials or cash. For the year 2016-2017, Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.100 crore for 1,519 works covering 30 Districts. 1,511 works will be taken up this year at a cost of Rs.328.95 crore for rehabilitation of tanks.

3. AYUSHMAAN BHARAT –

(a) **Health and Wellness Centre**

(b) **Pradhanmantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission**

- I am pleased to note that the Ayushman Bharat Programme launched by the Government of India draws heavily from the Tamil Nadu model. The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS), a flagship programme of the Tamil Nadu Government, has made tremendous strides in providing timely and quality in-patient care to the poor and needy families. It envisions a joint public and private sector role in promoting access and delivery of quality health care services to poor people. While we plan to dovetail the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme with the National Health Protection Scheme under the Ayushman Bharat programme, we seek flexibility to retain our model as it is tried and tested, enjoys high acceptability amongst people and does not weaken the public sector health care delivery. Since 2012, CMCHIS has benefited 26.86 lakh persons at a cost of Rs.4,762.75 crore.
- Since 2016, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) project has been successfully piloted in three Districts covering 67 Health and Wellness Centres (HSCs) and 17 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) including Block PHCs in Tamil Nadu. We are scaling up the UHC programme in additional 39 blocks. In the current financial year, we plan to transform State's 985 Health Sub-centres into Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) with the Government of India support at an estimated outlay of Rs.82.03 crore.
- Tamil Nadu has been making substantial investments in the social sector, especially in health, education, child care and social security. The outcome of this sustained strategy is a healthier population. We have already achieved Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Tamil Nadu is well poised to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) much ahead of the target year 2030. These accomplishments are made possible only due to the far-sighted schemes and programmes launched by my late leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Novel programmes such as Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, Menstrual Hygiene Programme, Amma Maternity Nutrition Kit, Amma Baby Care kit, Amma Mahaperu Sanjeevi, just to name a few, have received wide acclaim amongst the people.

4. POSHAN MISSION

(National Nutrition Mission)

- Tamil Nadu has also been a forerunner in its efforts to improve nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The

National Nutritional Mission builds on the Tamil Nadu experience. Total of eleven Districts in the State are being covered under Phase I and II. The process of hiring and placement of staff is expected to be completed by end of June 2018. 21 modules for incremental learning approach have been translated into Tamil for orientation purposes. Guidelines for community based events are ready and Training of Trainers for the Phase I has also been completed.

5. MISSION INDRADHANUSH

- Mission Indradhanush vaccination programme is under implementation in Tamil Nadu in four phases. So far, we have vaccinated 1.68 lakh mothers and 6.85 lakh children under the four phases. We are also taking necessary steps to cover left out and drop out children and mothers under the Special Intensified Mission Indradhanush in 1,477 Villages in the State.

6. ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

- In Tamil Nadu, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar Districts have been identified as Aspirational Districts. These two Districts being socio-economically backward, I urge the Government of India to sanction a Medical College in the 2018-2019 financial year to both the Districts under the Central Sector Scheme. The Dental Council of India and Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare may also be directed to approve the establishment of a State Government funded Government Dental College in Virudhunagar, by relaxing the distance norms.

7. 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

- I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for taking measures to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, in a befitting and grand manner. I have already given my detailed suggestions in the meeting convened on 02.05.2018 by the Hon'ble President of India. I highlight the important suggestions:

a) 'Gandhi Green Earth Award' may be instituted on the lines of the Nobel Prize and awarded annually to individuals or institutions from a global pool.

b) I request that the Gandhigram Rural Institute in Tamil Nadu, now a deemed University to be upgraded as a Central University and a Centre for Excellence for Gandhian Philosophy and Rural Development be established at an outlay of Rs.500 crore.

c) An additional corpus fund of Rs.10 crore may be sanctioned to the Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai which houses rare artefacts of Gandhiji. It was opened in 1959 and is presently being maintained from the interest accrued on its corpus fund of Rs.5 crore.

OTHER ISSUES

Inter State Rivers

- Tamil Nadu is entirely dependent on water from inter-state rivers, in particular, the Cauvery. We seek immediate operationalization of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for effective

implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

- The Government of India should take lead in inter-linking of rivers by nationalisation of all the Inter-State Rivers which alone offers the promise of creating a framework that would allow optimal utilization of water resources amongst States. My revered leader, the Late Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, had repeatedly urged the Government of India to implement the interlinking of the Mahanadhi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar Rivers and also to divert the surplus waters of the west flowing Pamba and Achankovil Rivers to Vaippar in Tamil Nadu.

State Finances

- Hon'ble Prime Minister, Tamil Nadu has always been a fiscally responsible State. Unlike the Government of India, States in general and Tamil Nadu in particular, have limited powers to mobilize resources. No one in the Government of India other than the Prime Minister would perhaps understand this better.
- With growing aspirations of the people, the resource needs of States for financing development have been on the increase. In the post-GST era, flexibility of States to augment their own resources and mobilize more is very limited. It is time we think of a new model of resource sharing to effectively deal with the present development challenges.
- As is the practice in developed countries, one suggestion is to levy and appropriate all indirect taxes which can be given to the States and the Union Government can retain the direct tax revenues. Alternatively, the power of collection and appropriation of personal income tax can be vested with the States as this would take care of growing needs of the States to implement development programmes. In this way, the present complicated process of devolution of resources can be simplified.

Finance Commission

- I wish to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the unfair treatment meted out to Tamil Nadu by successive Finance Commissions. While the 14th Finance Commission, increased the overall devolution of taxes to the States from 32 percent to 42 percent, it reduced inter-se share of Tamil Nadu in the divisible pool from 4.969 percent to 4.023 percent. As a result, Tamil Nadu suffered an annual resource loss of Rs.6,000 crore.
- The 15th Finance Commission would pain us further, unless some Terms of Reference (ToR) are corrected. Some of them are not in line with the principles of federalism enshrined in our Constitution and have to be reconsidered. I have raised these issues earlier as well. I am using this forum to reiterate our concerns again.
- The Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976 imposed a freeze on the population figure for readjustment at the 1971 census, as being the basis for

all delimitation until after 2001 Census. This was extended by Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 2011 till 2026 so as to ensure that progressive States which have brought their population under control are not penalized for proactive action. In this context, mandating the 15th Finance Commission to use population data of 2011 Census for its recommendations is, unfair and penalizes States like Tamil Nadu for being progressive. And hence, must be revised.

- I also request that Para 7 (iii) and Para 7 (viii) in the ToR of the 15th Finance Commission be revised as they would propel the Finance Commission into adopting a subjective and out-of-context approach while working out the principles of resource sharing.

Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

- Though education is not covered in the agenda, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to revisions made by the Government of India, to the guidelines of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The changes, inter-alia, entail to stop reimbursement of fees claimed against management quota / spot admission seats in any Institution/ University with effect from April 2018. The new guidelines also change the basis of committed liability over and above which 100% is borne by the Central Government. This will end up in a situation where Central Sector Scheme will have to be fully funded by State Government. The revision has effectively blunted our ability to improve the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education any further.
- In Tamil Nadu, large number of students from poor scheduled castes and scheduled tribes households' avail benefits under Post-Matric scholarship scheme through management quota seats in self-financing colleges. It has been of immense help to students, several of whom are first generation graduates, in joining higher educational institutions. Tamil Nadu prides itself in having achieved Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of more than 45%. Apart from blocking our efforts to improve GER, the revision has fast become cause for social resentment and unrest, as it is against social justice.
- Moreover, the reimbursement of dues over the years under this Scheme, pending from Government of India to Tamil Nadu exceed Rs.1,804 crore as of March 2018.

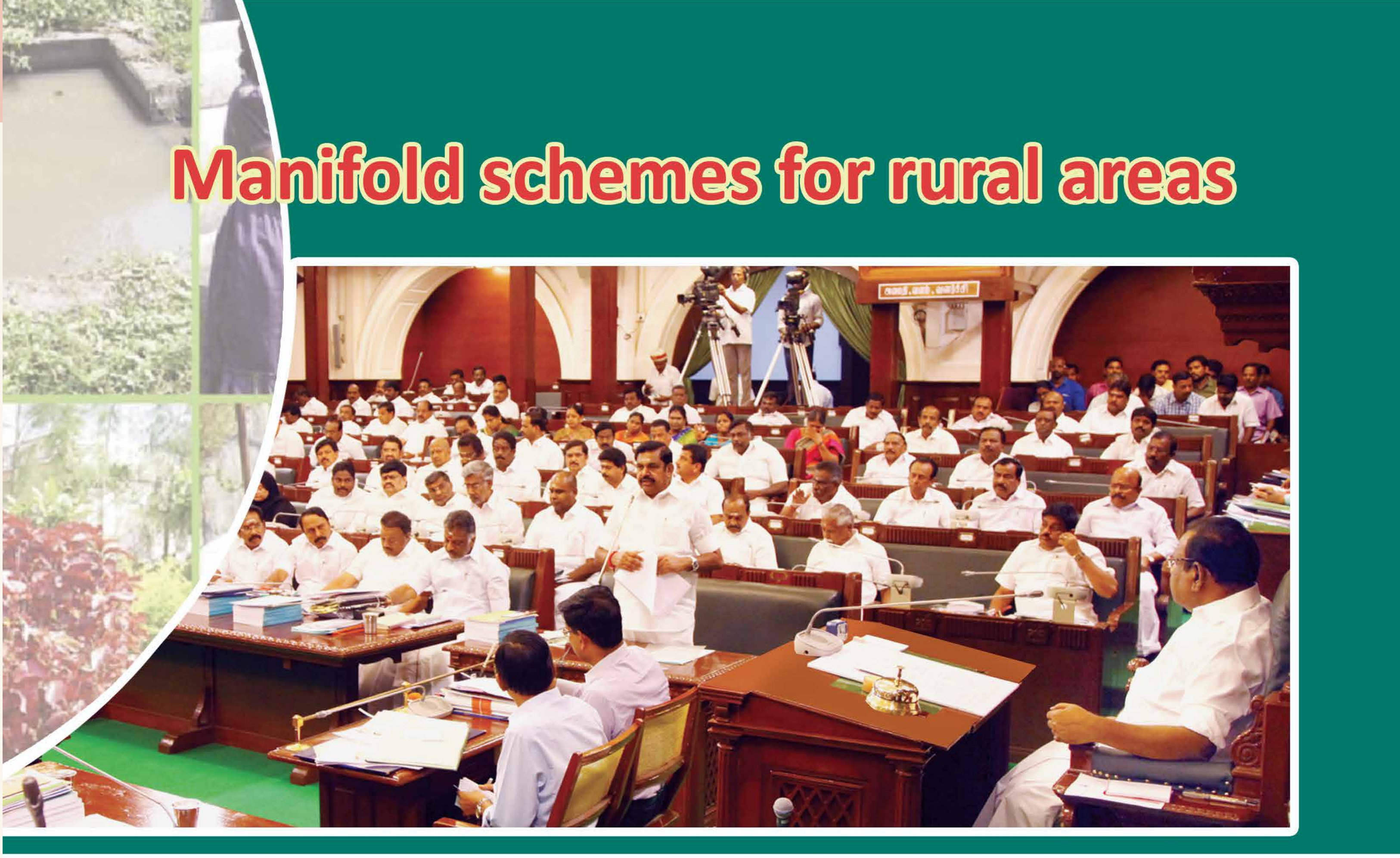
I seek the personal intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in resolving this impasse. I also suggest that this Scheme may be funded under a 60:40 sharing formula between Centre and the States, as in the case of other Central Schemes.

I have presented the views of my Government and people of Tamil Nadu before this august gathering. I sincerely hope that our interests and concerns would receive utmost positive consideration. I would like to assure that Tamil Nadu would continue to march ahead and make all contributions necessary to ensure growth and prosperity for the people of India.

Nandri.

Vanakkam.

Manifold schemes for rural areas



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 12.06.2018 (English Translation).

Hon'ble Speaker,

A nation's growth depends on the development of its rural areas. That is the reason for the Hon'ble Amma's Government in implementing various welfare programmes for the welfare of the people in rural areas. In this regard, I am happy to announce the following schemes for the benefit of rural people.

1. Waste water from kitchens and bathrooms from houses in rural areas normally stagnates in and around the houses and the stagnant water may cause infectious diseases. To prevent the stagnation of water in houses, individual soak pits and in areas where there are bore wells, over-head tanks and other drinking water structres, community soak pits are to be set up. About two lakh five hundred soak pits at a cost of Rs.168.94 crore will be set up. These soak pits will not only drain waste water but recharge ground water.

2. 1,000 Anganwadi Centres, each costing Rs.8.70 lakh, will be set up in the current financial year in rural areas at a total cost of Rs. 87 crore.

3. Five hundred new Panchayat Office buildings, each costing Rs.17.64 lakh, will be

constructed in the current financial year, at a cost of Rs.88.20 crore, replacing the old and dilapidated Panchayat Union buildings.

4. As Tamil Nadu has successfully implemented the Prime Minister's Rural Road Scheme – I, the Central Government has sanctioned Phase II of the Rural Road Scheme for Tamil Nadu for the year 2017-2018. Under this scheme, roads in rural areas to a length of 287 km will be developed at a cost of Rs.192.80 crore. Ten high level bridges will also be constructed.

5. Various roads in rural areas are improved under the Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme. Under the scheme, in the current year, roads in rural areas to a length of 5,500 km will be improved at a cost of Rs.1,200 crore.

6. Bore wells are the main source of drinking water supply in rural areas. To remove salt and hardness from the bore well water and to supply protected water to people, Reverse Osmosis treatment centres will be set up in the current financial year at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

7. Sixty thousand garbage bins, each costing Rs.25,000 will be provided to Village Panchayats, which are adjacent to Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats and in thickly populated Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.150 crore.

8. Taking into consideration the demands of the public and peoples representatives to repair the houses constructed 25 years back under various Government schemes. 45,594 houses which are in dilapidated condition will be required each at a cost of Rs.50,000 and at a total cost of Rs.227.97 crore. Allocation will be made from State Government funds.

9. In the last seven years, Rs.41,180 crore has been given as bank loan to women self-help groups. During the financial year 2017-2018, as against the target of Rs. 7,000 crore announced in the Assembly under Rule 110, Rs. 8,332 crore was disbursed as bank loan achieving a target of 119 per cent. So in the Current financial year, the Amma's Government has fixed a target of Rs. 11,000 crore as bank loan for the SHGs taking their growth into consideration.

More funds for better urban civic services

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 12.06.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing various welfare schemes to maintain public health and provide civic services in proportion to the increasing population in urban areas. In continuation to that I am happy to announce in this august Assembly.

1. Of the 135 urban local bodies in the State (except Chennai), underground drainage system has been completed in 35 Urban local bodies and are in use. Underground drainage works are in progress in 3 Corporations and 25 Municipalities. Taking into consideration the difficulties faced when underground drainage systems are executed, the Tamil Nadu Government, as an alternative, decided to execute Sludge Waste Management scheme for 51 Municipalities and 59 Town Panchayats. For this, the Government will set up Sludge Waste treatment plants in 49 Towns at a cost of Rs.217 crore.

2. During the current year works will be taken up to a length of 1,350 km at an estimate of Rs.1,000 crore to repair the roads damaged due to underground drainage works, laying of pipelines for drinking water schemes and due to rains, in the Corporations, Municipalies and Town Panchayats.

3. I am happy to inform the Assembly that, with the financial assistance of NABARD, road improvement works will be undertaken in Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs.200 crore.

Chance to regularise educational buildings

The Housing and Urban Development Department issued a G.O. on 14.06.2018 to enable regularization of educational buildings which were constructed before 01.01.2011 on non-project areas by the Town Planning Department. A copy of the GO is available in the website www.tn.gov.in/tcp.

One-time fees to be remitted, documents to be submitted, rules and regulations to be followed, application and the last date for submitting the application are all mentioned in the G.O.

Applicants can submit their completed applications and the necessary fees through the website. The last date for submitting the completed application form is 13.09.2018. The people concerned are requested to make use of the one-time special scheme and avail the benefits.

Avvaiyar Award to SHG Chairperson

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 20.06.2018 handed over the 'Avvaiyar Award' to Tmt.P.Chinnapillai, Chairperson of the Kalanjiyam Self-help Group in Pillucheri Village in Madurai District. The Award has been given for her efforts for the development of women in rural areas.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced that every year a woman who excels in any one of the fields such as social reform, women's development, communal harmony, service to language, art, science, culture, media and administrative capability and will be given the Avvaiyar Award. The Award consists of 8 grams of gold and a cash of Rs.1 lakh and is being given every year since 2012.

The 66-year-old Tmt.P.Chinnapillai has been successfully running the Kalanjiyam Self-Help Group for the development of women in rural areas. The group members engage in awareness campaign among people in rural areas on education loans, farm loans and loans for purchase of milch animals.

Tmt. P.Chinnapillai was responsible for the economic development of thousands of rural women and instrumental in forming 2,589 self-help groups, which led to social change and development of women. For the health of rural women, Tmt.Chinnapillai organized free medical camps and imparted training to rural women in tree planting and cultivating organic vegetables. For her commendable service, Tmt.Chinnapillai was awarded the Sree Shakti Puraskar Award by the Central Government for the year 2000.

App at hand for consumers to complain against products

Now consumers have an opportunity at hand to complain against packaged commodities that are short in weight, exceed MRP price and lack the mandatory information. Consumers can download the App - Tamil Nadu Legal Metrology Complaint Tracking System - in their Cell phones and give a complaint to the Metrology Department for suitable action.

The Labour Department has been conducting periodic inspections in the first and third weeks of every month under the Legal Metrology Act 2009 and Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011.

During May this year, on the instructions of the Labour Commissioner Dr.R.Nandagopal I.A.S., the Department officials conducted inspections in 1,330 jewellery shops and found violations in 289 cases.

All the violators were issued Contravention notices by the Department. The Officials also conducted inspections in 856 notebook shops and ice cream parlours and found violations in 46 cases. Contravention notices were issued to the shop owners concerned.

According to an official press release, similar inspections will be conducted in the coming months and action will be taken against violators.

Amma's Government follows Amma's path in improving infrastructural facilities in schools

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly
on 01.06.2018 under Rule 110 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave great importance to education. The present Amma's Government, which is treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been successfully implementing many welfare schemes which benefit poor students.

In continuation of various welfare schemes for the students, I am happy to make the following announcements on behalf of the School Education Department.

1. Drinking water has been provided in all schools for the students. Now, in proportion to the number of students in 2,448 Government high schools and higher secondary schools, where additional water facilities are required, pure and protected drinking water will be provided at a cost of Rs. 48.96 crore.

2. 2,283 smart classes will be set up in Government Primary and Middle Schools at a cost of Rs.42.92 crore, to help students learn all lessons with the support of the Information Technology.

3. To enable teachers to acquaint themselves with the new syllabus to be introduced from the current year in a better manner, mid career training will be provided to all teachers. Similarly, headmasters will be given training for improving their leadership qualities, Inspectors (of schools) will be given capacity building training and training to feed modules into National Teacher's Portal and other types of training will be given at a total cost of Rs.35.14 crore, .

4. 32 Government Higher Secondary Schools will be selected in the State, one each from each District, for making them into model schools at a cost of Rs.16 crore. Rs.50 lakh will be spent on each school for improving infrastructure and teaching standards, taking into consideration the present science and technology development.

5. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced the pilot scheme of issuing smart cards to students of Government schools. Improved smart cards will be issued from the current year to all boy/girl students of the Government and Government-aided schools by including additional features such as Aadhar card no in the smart cards at a cost of Rs.11.25 crore. ■

Integrated Sports Complex declared open

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 20.06.2018, declared open through video conferencing an integrated sports complex near the training athletic track at Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Stadium in Chennai, constructed at a cost of Rs. 13,58,13,000/- and also a multi-purpose internal sports stadium at Nagapattinam, set up at a cost of Rs. 1.95 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been providing incentives and giving training to athletes to participate and win International and All-India sports events. The incentives include payment of grants to sportsmen who win tournaments at the International and All-India levels, sports hostels for budding sportspersons, organizing sports events at the village-level to encourage rural sportspersons, improving sports stadia in the Districts and encouraging traditional games.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during her tenure as the Chief Minister announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 that an integrated sports stadium would be set up in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. As per Amma's statement, the integrated sports stadium has been set up at a cost of Rs.13.5813 crore near the training athletic track and the same has been opened for sportspersons' use by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

The sports complex has water drainage station, separate rooms for men and women for dress change, an exclusive swimming pool with temperature maintaining facility for differently abled persons, a wooden floor of 30 by 15 metre on the first floor of the swimming pool with glass roof top, spectators room, squash court with rooms for dress change, 4 air-conditioned and flood-lit badminton courts of 35 by 21.50 metre, two handball courts of 30 by 19 metre with seating facility, and two basketball courts.

The Nagapattinam Sports complex has spectators' gallery, wooden flooring, and flood-lit multi-purpose indoor stadium. The stadium, constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.95 crore was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami from the Secretariat.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over the incentive cheque of Rs.10 lakh to Thiru.Balu Pandian of Madurai, a member of the Indian floor hockey team for the physically disabled at the World Winter Games in 2013 in PyeongChang, South Korea, who won the silver medal.

At Rs.152.20 crore a year, 41 constituent colleges to be made Government Colleges

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 01.06.2018 under Rule 110 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

56 Government/University Constituent Arts and Science Colleges, 4 Government Engineering Colleges and 19 Government Polytechnic Colleges have been opened during the last 7 years. I am happy to announce new schemes, to be implemented this year by Amma's Government, for the Higher Education Department.

1. All the 41 University Constituent Arts and Science Colleges in the State will be converted into Government Arts and Science Colleges from the current academic year. For this, the Government will incur a recurring expenditure of Rs.152.20 crore per annum.

2. From the academic year 2011-2012 to 2017-2018, 1,232 new courses have been introduced in the Government Arts and Science Colleges. In the current academic year 2018-2019, 264 new courses (68 Under Graduate courses, 60 Post Graduate courses and 136 Research programs) will be introduced in the Government Colleges. For these courses, 324 classroom buildings, 50 laboratories, and other infrastructure will be provided at a cost of Rs.62.75 crore.

3. In the students' hostels in the Government Engineering Colleges in Bargur, Coimbatore, Karaikudi, Salem, Tirunelveli and Vellore, 50 rooms to accommodate three students each will be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 37 crore so that 150 more students can be accomodated in each college.

IT Parks to come up in Coimbatore, Tiruchi; Cyber security through ELCOT at Rs.21.39 crore

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 01.06.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government, which has been providing various services to the general public utilizing Information Technology, is keen to make further use of the technology by taking various measures.

In this connection, I am making the following announcements relating to the Information Technology Department for the current year.

1. Two Information Technology parks will be set up, one each in Coimbatore and Tiruchi at an estimated cost of Rs.100 crore and Rs.40 crore respectively to facilitate entrepreneurs who want to start business relating to Information Technology. The IT Park in Coimbatore will come up on an area of 2.5 lakh sq.ft area at ELCOSEZ in Vilankurichi in Coimbatore District. The park in Tiruchi will be set up on 1 lakh sq.ft area.

2. To protect the Information Technology infrastructure TNSWAN and TNSDC and the e-Governance services provided by the Government and to provide uninterrupted and safe internet services, the Tamil Nadu Government is to implement 'Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu' through ELCOT at a cost of Rs.21.39 crore. Through this, uninterrupted Internet service will be ensured and the security of Government data will be protected.

3. The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation is now providing quality Digital Cable TV service through SD-Standard Definition. I am happy to inform that to improve the service still further the Corporation will provide HD-High Definition quality through HD set top boxes .

Slew of measures to boost milk production, livestock treatment and fishing

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, under Rule 110 at the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 06.06.2018 *(English translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Livestock plays an important role in the life of farmers. The State Government has been taking constructive steps to improve the economy of the rural areas, to bring socio-economic change, to create employment opportunities, to improve the production of milk, and to pay reasonable procurement price to dairy farmers. That is why, this Hon'ble Amma's Government, which is treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is giving importance to the development of livestock and implementing various welfare schemes. In continuation of the Government's activities, I am happy to make the following announcements on behalf of the Department.

1. The Amma's Government has been providing the best infrastructure to all veterinary institutions to enable them to provide best medical facilities to livestock. So far, 1,895 veterinary institutions have been provided with new buildings and in the current financial year, new buildings will be constructed for 30 more veterinary institutions at a cost of Rs. 10.50 crore.

2. It is necessary to have the latest diagnostic instruments in veterinary clinics to minimize economic loss to those who lose their animals due to diseases. So the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to provide ultrasound scanner and computerized X-ray unit in all 32 veterinary institutions in all Districts in the State at a total cost of Rs.8.46 crore.

3. At present, multi-purpose veterinary hospitals are functioning in 6 Corporations. Soon one veterinary institutions each in Dindigul, Thanjavur, Vellore, Thoothukudi, Tiruppur and Erode Corporations will be upgraded as multi-purpose hospitals. These 24-hour multi-purpose veterinary hospitals will have operation theatre, in-patient facilities, ultrasound scanner and computerized X-ray unit at a cost of Rs.6.24 crore.

At present, 26 Animal Disease Inteligence Unit (ADIU) have been functioning for 32 Districts. To strengthen the disease detection among animals, two more ADIU will be set up at Namakkal and Tiruvarur at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

4. For the control of foot-and-mouth disease, 93.89 lakh animals are to be vaccinated against the disease for the 15th and 16th round in September 2018 and March 2019 at a cost of Rs.24 crore.

5. Backyard poultry scheme has become popular due to increase in demand for native eggs and meat. To encourage backyard poultry farming further, 38,500 women beneficiaries in the State except Chennai will be given 50 birds each at a total cost of Rs.25 crore.

6. At present, 280 students are studying in the Veterinary Medical Colleges and Research Institutes in Tirunelveli and Orathanadu. To improve the infrastructure in these institutions, additional classrooms, examination halls, hostel facilities, and HT power supply will be provided at a cost of Rs.14 crore each totaling Rs.28 crore in these two colleges.

7. In view of the increase in demand for milk in Chennai Metropolitan area, the capacity of the existing dairy plant has to be expanded. The present capacity of 3.5 lakh litres of milk in Madhavaram plant will be converted into an automatic 10 lakh litre milk capacity plant at a cost of Rs. 100 crore.

8. The milk processing capacity of the Salem plant will be increased from 5 lakh litres a day to 7 lakh litres a day and Dairy Whitener unit with a capacity to produced 30 MT per day will be set up at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

9. At present, the Vellore-Tiruvannammalai Co-operative Milk Producers Union is processing 1.5 lakh litres of milk a day. As the plant is located on the Bengaluru Highway, it is difficult to expand the plant further. So a new dairy plant with a processing capacity of 5 lakh litres a day, will be set up at a cost of Rs. 75 crore. The new plant will have sewage treatment plant, quality control laboratory, and milk processing equipment.

10. The Thanjavur Union is now procuring 55,000 litres of milk a day but it has a processing capacity of 25,000 litres only. This plant will be upgraded as an automatic dairy plant with a milk processing capacity of one lakh litres of milk with facilities to manufacture milk products at a cost of Rs.75 crore.

11. To improve the sale of milk and milk products in all the District unions, and to meet the demands of consumers, 500 milk parlours will be opened in 30 Districts at a total cost of Rs. 20 crore, each costing Rs. 4 lakh.

12. In Tiruchi Union, a 5,000 litre capacity ice cream manufacturing unit will be set up at a cost of Rs. 10 crore. The ice cream plant will have a modern automatic ice cream mixture unit, solidifying unit, automatic package machine, freezing room, and air-conditioned godowns.

The Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has been taking a number of steps to upgrade the livelihood of fishermen and their income, including increase in the relief amount during fishing ban period. In continuation of that,

13. A tuna-fishing harbour will be set up in Tiruvottriyur in Tiruvallur District at a cost of Rs. 200 crore to relieve existing congestion at the fishing harbour in Chennai. The new fishing harbour will have modern facilities to handle tuna fishing boats bringing tuna fishes from deep sea to auction centres.

14. Additional facility will be provided at the existing fishing harbour in Mudhu Nagar in Cuddalore for landing fishing boats, auctioning fishes and for net weaving at a cost of Rs. 100 crore.

15. Kanniyakumari has a 72 km long coastline and has one fishing village at every kilometre. Due to the Ockhi storm, and the subsequent sea erosion, Vallavilai, Marthandam and Neerodi villages were heavily affected and the fishermen in these villages lost their houses and belongings. To provide houses for them and to save them from future sea erosion and turbulence, 3 groynes will be constructed at a total cost of Rs. 116 crore.

16. At present, rearing Tilapia fishing has become a lucrative industry bringing good returns for fishermen. Taking this into consideration, I am happy to announce that a Tilapia entrepreneurs park will be set up at a cost of Rs. 6.97 crore in Palar Porundalar Dam in Dindigul District.

'High yields and improved soil fertility will be the gains'

Chief Minister appeals to delta farmers to avail themselves of Kuruvai package

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 08.06.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Kuruvai cultivation in the Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam and in the kuruvai areas of the Districts of Tiruchi, Cuddalore, Pudukkottai, Ariyalur and Karur is taken up, depending largely upon the water storage position in Mettur dam. Usually, the dam is opened on June 12 for kuruvai cultivation, if the water level is 90 ft. and if that is done, 3.15 lakh acres will come under kuruvai cultivation in the above said areas.

For the last 6 years, Mettur dam could not be opened on June 12 due to inadequate storage. However, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, taking into account the delta farmers' interest and their livelihood, provided 3-phase power supply for 12 hours in 2012 to encourage them to take up kuruvai cultivation with ground water and by announcing and implementing a 'kuruvai package scheme' from the year 2013.

Hon'ble Amma's great efforts and the farmers' total support resulted in taking up kuruvai cultivation in a minimum of 2.07 lakh acres to a maximum of 3.16 lakh acres in the last 5 years. This is an achievement as the rice production in 2012 was 2.3 lakh metric tons, in 2013 – 3.4 lakh metric tons, in 2014 – 4.3 lakh metric tons, in 2015 – 4.9 lakh metric tons and in 2016 - 5 lakh metric tons.

Taking into account the welfare of paddy growers and agriculture labour, this Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, announced and implemented last year, a Rs.56.92 crore 'kuruvai package scheme', as the storage in the Mettur dam was inadequate to undertake kuruvai cultivation since Karnataka did not release Tamil Nadu's share of water as per the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal.

As a result of the legal battle waged by Hon'ble Amma's Government, the Central Government set up the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and published it in Government Gazette on 01.06.2018. Accordingly, Tamil Nadu appointed the Principal Secretary of the Public Works Department as its member in the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Tiruchi Zone Chief Engineer of the Water Resources Department as its member in the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and informed the Central Government about it on

01.06.2018. The Kerala Government appointed its representative on 06.06.2018 and conveyed it to the Centre. Puducherry recommended its representative. Karnataka alone, it is learnt, has not appointed its members till date and forwarded its recommendation to the Central Government.

For the immediate constitution of Cauvery Water Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation committee so as to commence in time kuruvai paddy cultivation, expected greatly by delta farmers, a delegation of AIADMK members of Parliament, led by the Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker, Dr. M. Thambidurai, met the Central Minister for Water Resources Respected Thiru. Nitin Gadkari at Delhi on 06.06.2018 and presented my letter dated 05.06.2018. The Central Minister informed that the Chairman of the Central Water Resources Commission Thiru. Masood Hussain had been appointed as the Chief of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and a meeting of the Authority would shortly be convened even if other states had not appointed their members. Hon'ble Amma's Government will continue to pressure the Central Government till that meeting is held and delta farmers get the water that is their due. I hope Tamil Nadu will shortly get its due share of water through these steps of Hon'ble Amma's Government.

The present water storage level in Mettur dam is just 39.42 ft. Inflow is only 2,190 cusecs. With this water availability, Mettur dam cannot be opened for kuruvai cultivation on the usual date of June 12. However, kuruvai cultivation will be taken up in delta areas with alternative water sources of deep bore wells and tube-wells. Hence, I am extremely happy to announce in this House, this year's 'kuruvai package scheme' for raising in the current year short-term paddy and pulse varieties by using water thriftily. Accordingly,

1. Three phase 12 hour power supply will continued to be provided as in the last six years, to delta Districts for agriculture.

2. A sum of Rs.2,77,50,000/- will be allotted towards supply of 15,857 quintal of high-yielding paddy seeds at subsidized price during the kuruvai season to cover 79,285 acres; the subsidy will be Rs.1,750/- per quintal of paddy seeds.

3. To prepare the field in time for paddy cultivation with agro-machines, an allocation of Rs.11,94,30,000/- will be made to supply 870 power tillers and 860 rottavetters at 50 per cent subsidy.

4. For encouraging solar motor pump sets for tapping ground-water in delta areas, farmers will be given 90 per cent subsidy if they come forward to withdraw their applications registered with the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (for connections). For setting up 500 solar motor pump sets in delta areas, Rs.22.50 crore will be allotted.

5. To help delta farmers who have not got electricity connection, Rs.3 crore will be allotted for supplying 2,000 diesel engines on 50 per cent back-ended subsidy. To get such agro-machines, I request farmers to register themselves in the 'Uzhavan' mobile app, introduced by this Government.

6. For mechanized sowing of paddy, 100 per cent subsidy will be given at the rate of Rs.4,000/- per acre for one lakh acres.

The Government will allot Rs.40 crore for this. Paddy micro-nutrient mixture will be supplied at 50 per cent subsidy for application in 40,000 acres deficient in micro-nutrients.

7. For using zinc sulphate fertilizer in areas deficient in zinc nutrition in delta Districts, Rs.1.60 crore will be allotted as back-ended subsidy at the rate of Rs.200/- per acre for covering 80,000 acres. Also, Rs.1.80 crore will be allotted as back-ended subsidy for application of gypsum in 30,000 acres at the rate of Rs.600/- per acre.

8. Pulse crops require less water and give great profit in short duration. To cultivate such crops in 12,500 acres, Rs.1.13 crore will be allotted for providing quality seeds at 60 per cent subsidy and liquid bio fertilizer, pulse micro-nutrient mixture and spraying of DAP fertilizer at 50 per cent subsidy.

9. An allotment of Rs.1,99,40,000/- will be made for installation of 2,000 sprinkler irrigation structures for thrifty use of water in raising pulse crops. Small and micro farmers will be given preference and 100 per cent subsidy and other farmers 75 per cent subsidy for the installation of these structures.

10. To improve soil fertility in Vennaru area that forms the tail-end portion of the Cauvery delta and Grand Anaicut irrigation system, green fodder crop cultivation will be taken up in 15,000 acres. For this cultivation, green fodder crop seeds will be supplied at subsidized rates at the rate of Rs.1,200/- per acre.

11. Rs.2.25 crore will be allotted towards subsidy for PVC pipes to delta farmers for thrifty use of ground-water and increasing the area of kuruvai cultivation. A subsidy of Rs.15,000/- will be given for each unit of 30 PVC pipes, each pipe measuring 6 metre long and having a diameter of 4 inches. The subsidy covers 1,500 such units.

12. Hon'ble Amma's Government has decided to re-structure the 'kuruvai package scheme' in a way as to protect the livelihood and improve the economic condition of agriculture labour also in delta Districts by providing job opportunities as part of the scheme, for the first time. Accordingly, farm labourers will be engaged in jobs like de-silting channels, setting up farm ponds, digging pits and planting for cultivation of horticulture crops and setting up manure pits. For this, the Government has allotted Rs.24.50 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

This kuruvai package scheme of Hon'ble Amma's Government, that works on the lines of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, costing Rs.115,67,20,000/- will help in kuruvai paddy and pulse cultivation in delta Districts. It will help get a high-yield and improve the soil fertility. Department officials have been asked to begin these works immediately. I request the farmers to make use of this scheme and take up kuruvai cultivation in the best possible way.

All these programmes have been announced to help farmers take up kuruvai cultivation in time. Still, Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking action consistently to pressure the Central Government to set up the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and to get Tamil Nadu's due share of water as per the Supreme Court's judgment and shortly release water from Mettur dam for irrigation through the inflow of Cauvery water. With this information, I resume my seat. ■

New power schemes to keep Tamil Nadu power surplus

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 12.06.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Electricity plays a crucial role in the development of a Nation. Taking into consideration the future demand, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma conceived many schemes to increase the installed capacity of existing power plants and also implemented various long-term plans for increasing power availability. That is the reason why the State will be a power surplus State now and in future in the country. I hereby announce new power schemes to be implemented by the Energy Department and also its policies.

1. 25 new sub-stations will be set up in the State at a cost of Rs. 5,068.42 crore.

A) A new 400 kv substation at a cost of Rs.600 crore at Samugarengapuram in Aralvaimozhi in Tirunelveli District to bring out power generated through windmill and solar power.

B) 3 new 400 kv substations, at a total cost of Rs.1,669 crore will be set up one each in Neyveli in Cuddalore District, Konthagai in Sivagangai District, and Parali in Coimbatore District.

C) A new 400 kv substation will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs.1,039 crore in Ottapidaram in Thoothukudi District to bring out power generated from the Udangudi Unit–I, 2 x 660 MW Thermal Power Station, 2 x 150 MW Ind Bharath Thermal Station and from the new windmill and solar power stations.

D) To improve the electrical infrastructure in Chennai, 230 kv substations will be set up one each in Ganesh Nagar and K.K.Nagar; in Avadi and Ennore in Tiruvallur District, Maraimalar

Nagar and Pallavaram in Kancheepuram District at a total cost of Rs.932.78 crore.

E) Four 230 kv substations, one each in K.Pudur in Madurai District, Rajagopalapuram in Tirunelveli District, Kalivelampatti in Tiruppur District and Edappadi in Salem District will be set up at a total cost of Rs.716.84 crore.

F) 10 substations of 110 kv capacity will be set up, one each in Karapattu in Tiruvannamalai District, Indalur in Kancheepuram District, Achalapuram in Nagai District, Melpadi in Vellore District, Papanasam in Thanjavur District, Ilakkiyampatti in Dharmapuri District, Panappalayam in Tiruppur District, Chinnathadagam in Coimbatore District and Thaniyamangalam and Manickampatti in Madurai District. These substations will be set up at a total cost of Rs.110.80 crore.

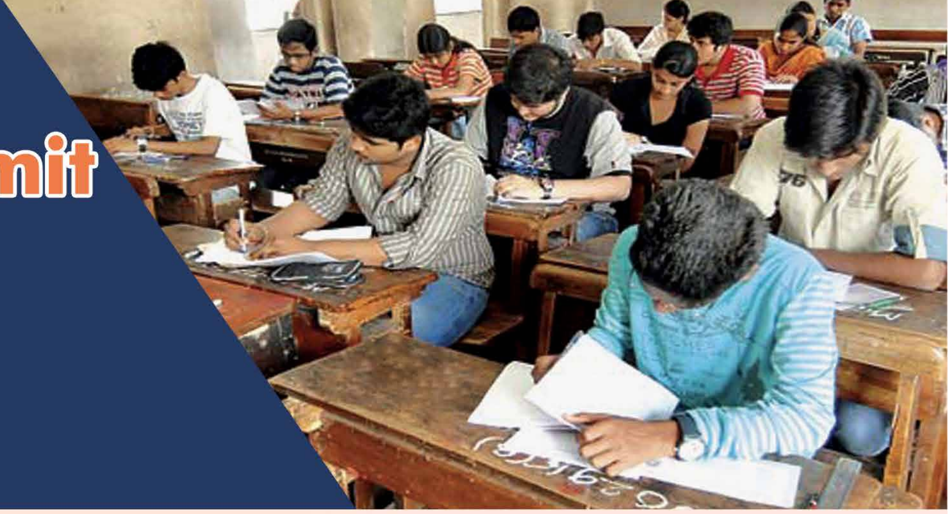
2. To prevent evaporation of water in various reservoirs and to increase the compulsory procurement of solar power, the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation and the Indian Solar Power Corporation for the first time will jointly set up a 250 MW floating solar plant at a cost of Rs.1,125 crore based on feasibility.

3. As the Moyar Hydro Electric Power House has crossed 65 years, it has been decided to increase its lifetime by another 25 years and increase its capacity from 3 x 12 MW to 3 x 14 MW. For this, modernization of the plant at a cost of Rs. 67.05 crore will be undertaken.

4. Solar power policy 2012 will be suitably modified to achieve 8,884 MW capacity as targeted by Solar Power policy in the year 2023. Through this, the aim of the Solar Policy of 2012, Hon'ble Amma's vision of 2023 and National Solar Movement will be integrated.

5. A new Energy Policy will be formed to achieve economic and social aims based on Hon'ble Amma's Vision 2023 document.

Upper age limit for certain TNPSC exams up



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 01.06.2018 under Rule 110 (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I am happy to make an announcement relating to the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department in this Assembly.

The Government has received representations from various quarters to relax the upper age limit for Group-I Examinations conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission. On the basis, as in UPSC, I am happy to announce that the upper age limit for the TNPSC Group-I, I-A, I-B examinations conducted by the Commission has been increased from 35 to 37 for SC/ST/MBC/BC and DNC and from 30 to 32 for the General category.

Last date of interest waiver for HB allottees is August 27

Many Tamil Nadu Housing Board allottees could not get the sale deed for their allotted houses/plots/ flats due to interest burden. For their benefit, the Tamil Nadu Government issued a Government order on 15.06.2017 that the penal interest on the outstanding monthly installments, the entire interest on principal and the interest for five months for every year on the difference in land cost (between the original land cost paid and the final cost) would be waived.

The Government also announced through the media that the waiver of interest would be in force for one year from 27.08.2017. Many allottees of the Board under various allotments of schemes made use of the waiver and received the sale deeds after paying the principle after the waiver of interest.

As the waiver withdrawal scheme is to expire on 26.08.2018, allottees, who could not get the sale deed due to interest burden, are requested to make use of the concession by contacting the Housing Board Office concerned and pay the outstanding principle without interest and get the sale deeds, according to an official press release.

Residential Public School opened for children of Policemen

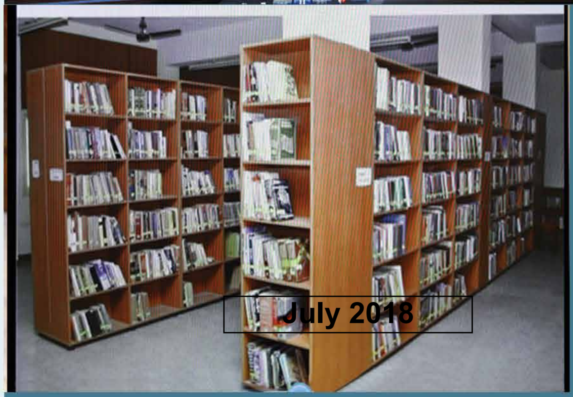
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 13.06.2018, declared open the Police Public School at the Tamil Nadu Police Academy campus at Unamancheri in Kancheepuram District through video conferencing.

A Headmaster and 5 teachers have been appointed for the school, which will temporarily function at the Academy campus. To start with, the school will have 50 students. As a beginning, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over admission letters to five students for the school.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at the Legislature Assembly on 23.04.2013 announced that a residential public school will be opened on a 10 acre site in Melakottaiyur for the convenience of beneficiaries of 'Own your House' scheme of the Police and for the policemen in various parts of the State.

As per Amma's announcement, administrative sanction for Rs.51.1498 crore has been given for setting up the residential Police Public School.

A Government Order has been issued for starting the school from the current academic year. The school will have classes up to 5th Standard and the medium of instruction will be English under State stream. Apart from children belonging to Policemen's families, local students will also be admitted in the School.



99 Government engineering, Anna university students off abroad for 15-day training

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 16.05.2018, handed over passport, visa and tickets to 99 students of Government Engineering Colleges and Anna University to undergo technical training in universities in Australia, Germany and Japan for 15 days under the Foreign Technical Training Programme (FTTP).

Of these 99 students, 50 students are doing their engineering courses in Government Engineering Colleges and the remaining in Anna University. The students, after receiving the documents, got the blessings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made a statement under Rule 110 on 23.08.2017 in the Legislative Assembly, that private Engineering Colleges in the State are sending their students to foreign universities for short-term training for improving their technical skills. In a similar manner, the Tamil Nadu Government will send students of Government Engineering Colleges to universities and colleges of foreign countries for a 15-day technical training.

Through this scheme, the selected students will undergo 15-day technical training classes to improve their skills to the international level, know the latest technical developments taking place at the international level and improve their research capabilities.

A committee was set up for implementing the scheme successfully, Under the scheme, 99 students - 50 students from the Government Engineering Colleges and 49 students from the Anna University - were selected on the basis of their marks. These students will undergo 15 days training in foreign universities and MOUs

have been signed with those universities in this connection.

Under the scheme, during the academic year 2017-2018, 61 students studying Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Production Technology and Information Technology, are being sent to Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia for 15 days from 19.05.2018 to 02.06.2018 along with two professors for guidance.

Fourteen students, studying Civil Engineering and B.Arch are being sent to Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany for 15 days training from 18.06.2018 along with a professor for guidance.

Twenty-four students of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Instrumentation Technology will undergo their 15-day training in Yokohama National University, Japan from 18.06.2018 to 02.07.2018 along with two professors for guidance.

The selected 50 students from the Government Engineering and 49 students from the Anna University for technical training in Australian, German and Japan Universities met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai and received the Hon'ble Chief Minister's blessings, who in turn congratulated them. As a beginning, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the Passport, Visa and Tickets to 7 students.

Resolution urges consensus before enacting law

D.O. letter dated 26.06.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

In continuation of my letter dated 15.06.2018 regarding the draft Dam Safety Bill, 2018 approved by the Union Cabinet on 13.06.2018, I would like to bring to your kind notice that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 26.06.2018 has unanimously resolved to urge the Central Government to keep in abeyance the draft legislation on Dam Safety Bill till such time a consensus is evolved among the States and to enact a legislation only after consulting the States.

I enclose a copy of the Resolution in Tamil and its English Version for ready reference and immediate action.

I look forward to your positive response in this matter.

RESOLUTION

"That as the proposed draft Dam Safety Bill, 2018 contains clauses which violate the rights of Tamil Nadu especially with respect to the Dams constructed by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the neighbouring State and would cause various problems in their maintenance and operation, this House urges the Central Government to take up the legislation on Dam Safety only after consulting the States and after arriving at a consensus and till then, keep in abeyance the process of legislating on Dam Safety".

The above Resolution was put and carried unanimously in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 26.06.2018.

Hostel opened for former Tamil Nadu legislators

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal declared open a new hostel for former MLAs of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at Omandur Government Estate on 27.05.2018 in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami and the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam. Earlier the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Dr.Pollachi V.Jayaraman welcomed the gathering.

The hostel, spread over an area of 76,721 sq.ft, has a reception room, dining hall, 60 rooms, 8 rooms for guests from other States, and a 250-seat auditorium on 2,722 sq.ft.

Constructed at a cost of Rs.39.63 crore, the new hostel for former Legislators has ample space for vehicle parking. A ground-level water tank have been provided for drinking water facility, besides motor room, cement road, rain-water harvesting and a lift. The hostel will facilitate stay of former MLAs when they come to Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated a facility for the general public to know the proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly online. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam inaugurated another facility that will enable former MLAs to book their rooms online

Chief Minister seeks status quo on guidelines for Post Matric Scholarship

D.O. letter dated 30.05.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I would like to draw your kind attention to the recent revision of guidelines for the Post Matric Scholarship scheme, wherein it has been stated that the fees claimed against the Management quota/Spot admission seat in any institutions/ Universities will not be reimbursed with effect from April, 2018. I wish to state that in Tamil Nadu, large number of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribe students belonging to poor economic background who are not able to get admission under the Government quota on merit, have been availing the benefit under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme under management quota seats in self financing colleges. These students who have so far, benefited by the Post Matric scholarship scheme had led to a large number of these students joining the Higher and Technical education institutions in the State. In fact, this scheme has largely benefitted the State to achieve higher Gross Enrollment Ratio of more than 45%. Non-reimbursement of fees for management quota seats under the new guidelines, will create a huge set back in achieving the goal of social equity and social justice, as it will deny opportunities to the poor SC/ST students in the fields of higher and technical education. This may cause serious resentment and unrest among the SC/ST community.

Further, instead of strengthening this scheme in the interest of achieving social justice and promoting the welfare of SC/ST, the revised guidelines will only dilute the State's efforts in this regard. It is relevant to point out that even though increased awareness resulted in increased admission of SC/ST students to higher education, the allocation in the central budget remained stagnant for the past many years. This resulted in accumulation of a huge amount of pending reimbursement to the State by Government of India, which affected the scheme's implementation at the field level. For instance, Rs.1,803.50 crore has accumulated as arrears pending reimbursement to the State of Tamil Nadu, upto March, 2018. Apparently, the above move seems to curtail expenditure within the budget sanction, instead of extending the benefit to all eligible students. Under the circumstances, the right course of action should

be to step up the allocation substantially rather than making modifications in the guidelines to curtail the existing benefit.

As per the existing scheme guidelines, the total expenditure under the scheme at the end of a plan period, will be considered as the committed liability of the State for the next plan period and Central Assistance would be provided for the expenditure over and above this committed liability. In view of the fact that the Five Year Plans, no longer exist, I request that the scheme may be funded with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and State respectively, as in the case of other Central Schemes. This will bring more clarity in the scheme funding.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly intervene and allow reimbursement of fees against management quota seats also, without any change and release the pending central assistance to the States early. Since, the admission process for Higher and Technical Education courses in the State is about to begin, Hon'ble Prime Minister may kindly consider my request on priority and accordingly direct the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. ■

ATM, RuPay cards for pensioners

The Tamil Nadu Government under the Social Security Scheme is giving 9 types of pension for marginalized people in society, including pension for the aged, widows and differently abled persons.

For the convenience of pension beneficiaries, the Tamil Nadu Government has directed the State-level Bankers committee to issue instructions to its member Banks to keep ready the ATM/ RuPay cards for the pensioners , who had given applications in their respective Banks for ATM/ RuPay cards. The pensioners who have applied for the ATM/RuPay cards, are asked to contact the Banks concerned and receive their cards.

Those who have not applied for the ATM/RuPay cards so far, are advised to submit their applications for the ATM/RuPay cards at their respective Banks. ■

'Ministry must ask Cauvery Authority to convene meeting immediately'

D.O. letter dated 20.06.2018 addressed by
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The media had widely reported that the Chief Minister of Karnataka requested the Government of India to defer the operation of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. The Chief Minister of Karnataka is also reported to have stated, inter-alia, that it is advisable to place the Scheme before the two Houses of Parliament and raised other issues for consideration.

It is evident that Karnataka has scant regard to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and seeks to re-open the adjudicated dispute which attained finality by the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 16.02.2018. The issues and contentions raised by Karnataka have already been settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Orders dated 16.02.2018 and 18.05.2018. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 18.05.2018 had emphatically held that the Authority should be notified in the official Gazette of Government of India and given effect to with promptitude before the onset of the impending monsoon and become operational.

This request of Karnataka to defer the operation of Cauvery Water Management Authority is another ploy not to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It is also an attempt to re-open the already adjudicated dispute which is not permissible.

During the last six years, as Karnataka failed to ensure timely release of water, Tamil Nadu suffered severely. In the current year, the farmers of Tamil Nadu have a legitimate expectation that the Cauvery Water Management Authority primarily mandated to implement the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 16.02.2018 will ensure the regulated release of water by Karnataka at Billigundulu.

Any further delay in the Cauvery Water Management Authority becoming fully operational would be a violation of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It would also seriously prejudice the interests of the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, request you to kindly direct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to issue instructions to the Cauvery Water Management Authority to immediately convene its meeting, so that Tamil Nadu could get its due share of water on monthly/10 day basis as per the orders in force.

May I request for an immediate positive response in this matter?

Immediate repatriation sought of Indian fishermen from Iran

D.O. letter dated 21.06.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I write to bring to your direct attention the plight of 21 fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are reportedly stranded in Iran, neither allowed to return to India nor allowed to continue fishing for which they were engaged as contract fishing labourers. They were engaged in fishing in the 3 boats belonging to their Iranian employers, Mr.MohammedShallah and his brothers, for more than 6 months. These 21 fishermen include 8 from Kanniyakumari District, 7 from Tirunelveli District and 6 from Thoothukudi District.

In the recent past, the Iranian employers did not pay the fishermen their share, as per terms of employment. Hence, these fishermen were struggling to make their ends meet as well as unable to send money to their families back home.

They had lost hope of receiving a fair remuneration from their employers and requested the employers to facilitate their return to India which was summarily refused by them. It is reported that the passports of the fishermen are in the custody of the local employers who is neither allowing them to continue work nor allowing them to return back to India.

In addition, the employer chased the fishermen out of their accommodation and abandoned them in the streets without any shelter, food and security.

I request you to direct the Embassy of India in Iran to take all measures to ensure the immediate repatriation of these poor innocent Indian fishermen. Necessary steps may also be taken to ensure that the fishermen receive their just and due wages. I request immediate action in this matter as their families and dependants in Tamil Nadu are anxious about the safety and early return of these fishermen.

Subsidy for 149 films

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat in Chennai on 20.06.2018 inaugurated distribution of subsidy cheques to the tune of Rs. 10.43 crore to 149 film producers, who produced small-budget films from the year 2007 to 2014. As a beginning, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the scheme by handing over the cheque for Rs.7 lakh each to 10 film producers.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been giving subsidy ever year to Tamil films of quality, produced at a low cost. Under the scheme, films that were produced from the year 2007 to 2014 were selected by a committee, headed by Hon'ble retired High Court Judges Thiru. T.V.Masilamani and Thiru. R.Raghupathi.

The committee selected 14 films for the year 2007, 18 films for the year 2008, 22 films for 2009, 21 films for 2010, 17 films for 2011, 22 films for 2012, 12 films for 2013, and 23 films for 2014. Totally 149 films were recommended by the Committee to the Government for subsidy payment. Cheques to the value of Rs. 10.43 crore were given to 149 film producers at the rate of Rs. 7 lakh each. As a beginning the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the cheques to 10 film producers.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity, Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Chief Secretary Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan I.A.S., Secretary for the Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru R. Venkatesan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru. P. Shankar I.A.S., and high Government officials participated.

Chief Minister seeks speedier UDAN in Hosur, Neyveli, Ramanathapuram

D.O.letter dated 23.06.2018 addressed by **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Suresh Prabhu**, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation.

I would like to thank you for the efforts taken by your Ministry to promote Air connectivity between Regions under the UDAN Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu. People in and around Salem District have welcomed the scheme and are benefitted by the flight services to Salem Airport.

Similarly, Hosur is an important industrial hub in Krishnagiri District, which was selected under the UDAN Scheme in the first phase and flight operations are yet to start for want of "No Objection Certificate" from Bangalore International Airport. The Hosur Airport, will be an engine of growth to the industrial hub of Krishnagiri and neighbouring Districts and also will develop the Chennai–Bangalore Industrial Corridor. I therefore request you to kindly instruct the Civil Aviation authorities to make Hosur Airport operational immediately.

Neyveli has also been selected in the Phase-I of UDAN Scheme and bidding process with airline operators has been completed.

I request you to take necessary steps to bring flight operations to Neyveli as early as possible.

I would also like to point out that Ramanathapuram has been included in the Phase-II of the UDAN Scheme. Rameswaram is an important Pilgrimage and Tourism centre, attracting tourists from all over India.Therefore, I request you to take necessary steps to start Air operations to Ramanathapuram as expeditiously as possible by starting the bidding process.

May I request your kind intervention on the above issues immediately? ■

Graphic account of Cauvery saga shows how much pressure Amma's Government exerted all the while

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 04.06.2018 regarding Supreme Court's judgment on Cauvery issue on 18.05.2018 and on the positive aspects of the judgment (*English translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Formation of Cauvery Water Management Board is a victory for the sustained legal battle waged by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma since 2011 and subsequently by the present Tamil Nadu Government, which is following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Moreover, the recommendations made by the Final Award of the Cauvery Disputes Tribunal for the formation of Cauvery Management Board and the powers given to the Board by the Tribunal were all found in the draft scheme, submitted by the Central Government to the Supreme Court. The Court also accepted the draft scheme of the Central Government.

Accepting the demand of the Tamil Nadu Government, it has been decided that the headquarters of the Cauvery Water Management Board will be at New Delhi and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee headquarters will be at Bengaluru. As per the Constitution, (Entry 17, List II of the Seventh Schedule), the Supreme Court dismissed the contention of the Kerala and Karnataka Governments that the respective States have the right to share the water allotted to them.

Through this order the rights of Tamil Nadu and the livelihood of State farmers have been retrieved.

Senior member of the House and the deputy leader of the Opposition Party, who was also the PWD Minister, know all the details. He mentioned some of the steps taken in the House. At this juncture, I would also like to mention the steps taken by the Amma Government.

1983: The Tamil Nadu Cauvery Delta Farm Producers' Welfare Association filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding constitution of a Tribunal .

06.07.1986: Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar MGR, when he was the Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu wrote a letter to the Central Government requesting the setting up of Tribunal.

18.11.1986: The Tamil Nadu Government impleaded itself as a party in the writ petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Cauvery Delta Farm Producers' Welfare Association in the Supreme Court.

04.05.1990: The Supreme Court directed the Central Government to set up Tribunal for the Cauvery issue.

04.06.1990: The Central Government formed the Cauvery Disputes Tribunal.

25.06.1991: The Cauvery Disputes Tribunal issued an interim order directing Karnataka to release 205 tmc ft. of water to Tamil Nadu every year on monthly / weekly basis.

25.07.1991: The Karnataka Government passed an ordinance making the Tribunal's award invalid.

27.07.1991: The President sought the opinion of the Supreme Court regarding the Karnataka ordinance.

22.11.1991: The Supreme Court ruled that the ordinance was invalid and advised the Central Government to publish the Tribunal's interim order in the Central Gazette.

10.12.1991: The Central Government published the interim order of the Tribunal in the Central Gazette.

14.05.1992: The Tamil Nadu Government filed a case in the Supreme Court requesting the Court to direct the Central Government to form an arrangement for implementing the Interim Order.

July 1993: As the Central Government failed to take any steps to implement the Interim Order, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma observed an 80-hour fast on the lawns of Marina Beach. On the assurance of the then Union Minister for Water Resources, Hon'ble Amma withdrew the protest fast.

11.08.1998: To implement the Interim Order of the Tribunal, the Central Government formed the Cauvery River Authority with Hon'ble Prime Minister as the Chairman, and the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry as members. The Union Minister for Water Resources was the Secretary of the Authority. The Authority met whenever necessary and it met seven times.

To assist the Authority, a Cauvery Monitoring Committee was formed with the Chief Secretaries and Chief Engineers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry as members of the Committee. The Chief Engineer of the Union Ministry of Water Resources was the Member Secretary of the Committee. The Committee was expected to meet at least once in three months or whenever necessary. The Committee met 32 times but Karnataka never implemented the orders of the Committee.

After the publication of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in the Central Gazette on 19.02.2013, these regulatory bodies ceased to exist.

19.09.2001: Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma filed a civil suit demanding that the Central Government issued an order to reconstitute or change the Cauvery River Authority to force the Karnataka Government to implement the Interim Order of the Tribunal to release water to Tamil Nadu.

10.07.2002: With the Tamil Nadu Government's civil suit pending in the court and Karnataka refusing to release water allotted for the year 2002, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma filed another Civil Suit in the Supreme Court. In the suit, the Tamil Nadu also submitted a draft plan for water release to the Supreme Court.

05.02.2007: The Final Order of the Tribunal was announced.

19.02.2007: The All India Anna DMK submitted the following proposals at the all-party meeting, convened to discuss the Final Order of the Tribunal:

Under the present circumstances, issues which are unfavourable to Tamil Nadu in the Final Order should be removed from the order and the Government should approach the Supreme Court to get more water for Tamil Nadu. Steps should be taken to get the entire quantum of water for Tamil Nadu under the Final Order. Approaching the Supreme Court to get more water for Tamil Nadu and steps to get the entire quantity of water for Tamil Nadu as per the Tribunal Order are two independent and separate issues.

Steps should be taken to publish in the Central Gazette the Final Order of the Tribunal and the follow-up measures such as formation of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. Constructive measures should be taken so that there is no delay in implementing the orders issued by the Tribunal. As it would take time for the Supreme Court to remove certain clauses in the Final Order, the Tamil Nadu Government should ensure necessary steps to get its quota of water sanctioned by the Interim Order of the Tribunal.

April, May 2007: The Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu Governments filed civil suits in the Supreme Court against the Final Order of the Tribunal. If action had been taken at that time, the current issue would not be there. Just because the Supreme Court was approached, once again Court intervention was made necessary.

07.06.2011: Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma explained the steps to be taken by the Government in the Legislative Assembly. The first step should be publication of the Final Order of the Tribunal in the Central Gazette. The publication of the Final Order of the Tribunal in the gazette would put pressure

on the Karnataka Government. For this the Tamil Nadu Government would take all possible steps.

2011 to 2013: After returning to power in May 2011, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a view to implementing the Final Order and to publish the Order in the gazette, met the Hon'ble Prime Minister several times and submitted memorandums. Through a number of letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma insisted on the Central Government to publish the Final Order in the Central Gazette. But the Central Government did not take any action in this regard. So the State Government was forced to file a case again in 2013 as no steps had been taken to implement the Final Order.

19.02.2013: Based on the case, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to publish the Final Order in the Central Gazette. I am happy to announce that due to sustained efforts of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Final Order, which was announced on 05.02.2007, was published in the Central Gazette in 19.02.2013.

18.03.2013: The Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court to direct the Central Government to form Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. Even after the Publication of Tribunal Award in the Central Gazette, the Central Government delayed the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. Despite many reminders, the Central Government did not take steps to form these bodies. This forced the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government to file a petition in the Supreme Court demanding constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

11.11.2013: As the Centre did not take any steps for the formation of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, the Tamil Nadu Government filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court .

05.12.2014, 27.03.2015 and 02.09.2016: The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted resolutions demanding immediate constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and sent the same to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

20.09.2016: Following the Tamil Nadu Government's petitions for constitution of these bodies, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to constitute these bodies as recommended by the Tribunal within four weeks.

30.09.2016: The Supreme Court again issued a directive to the Central Government to constitute these bodies within four days.

03.10.2016: The Central Government filed a petition in the Supreme Court to alter the Court order on constitution of the Cauvery Management Board. When the petition came up for hearing on 04.10.2016 the Supreme Court issued an order postponing the constitution of the Board. I am mentioning all these things to show how much effort has gone into the formation of these bodies.

11.07.2017 to 20.09.2017: When the Civil petitions came for final arguments in the Supreme Court, the Karnataka Government argued for 9 days, the Kerala Government for 2 days, the Tamil Nadu Government for 13 days, Puducherry for one day and the Central Government for one day. During its argument, Tamil Nadu insisted on the Central Government to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Authority as recommended by the Tribunal.

16.02.2018: The Supreme Court delivered the judgments on civil appeals. The court directed the Central Government, based on the final order of the Tribunal and the changes made by the Supreme Court, to frame an executive plan within six weeks and said the period would not extended for whatever reason.

22.02.2018: An all-party leaders and farmers meeting was convened by me and the following resolutions were adopted at the meeting.

A. It has been resolved to request the Central Government to set up Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as directed by the Supreme Court in its order on 16.02.2018 to sanction the quantum of water due to Tamil Nadu.

B. The meeting expressed concern over the 14.75 tmc ft. decrease in the quantum of water to Tamil Nadu and the increase in quantum of water to Karnataka and decided to take appropriate legal action after consulting legal experts.

C. It is also resolved to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister along with all-party leaders, farmers' associations leaders and MPs belonging to Tamil Nadu, and insist on the Hon'ble Prime Minister to form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee at the earliest, and implement the favourable clauses in the Supreme Court ruling.

05.03.2019: The Central Government announced that it had convened a meeting of Chief Secretaries of 4 States to discuss the Supreme Court ruling on 16.02.2018.

07.03.2018: A Cabinet and officials meeting was convened by me to discuss the meeting convened by the Central Government. In consultation with the lawyers it has been decided that the Centre should be insisted upon to form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee should be formed with full powers as recommended by the Tribunal in its Final Award.

09.03.2018: At the meeting convened by the Central Government, the Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government insisted on the Central Government to form the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee vested with all powers as recommended by the Final Award of the Tribunal.

10.03.2018: The Tamil Nadu Government, through press release informed that the Scheme mentioned by the Supreme Court is Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as mentioned in the Final Order of the Tribunal. The Final Order has clearly indicated that these two bodies should be formed with full powers and the Central Government has no other alternative but to accept the formation of these two bodies.

15.03.2018: The Assembly unanimously passed the resolution moved by me with regard to formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. The House insisted that as per the Final Order of the Tribunal and the Supreme Court's ruling on 16.02.2018 the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee with powers mentioned in the Tribunal should be formed by the Central Government within 6 weeks as mentioned in the SC ruling. This resolution was sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.03.2018 itself for immediate action.

29.03.2018: As the time frame fixed by the Supreme Court was about to end, the Tamil Nadu Government decided to file a defamation suit against the Central Government in the Supreme Court after detailed discussions with senior Ministers, Tamil Nadu Advocate General, Chief Secretary and senior officers.

31.03.2018: Defamation suit was filed against the Central Government. (No. 898/2018).

31.03.2018: The Central Government filed a petition in the Supreme Court requesting 3 months extension for the formation of these two bodies.

02.04.2018: The Tamil Nadu Government appealed to the Supreme Court to take up the hearing of its defamation suit against the Central Government immediately and the Supreme Court ruled that the suit could be heard on 09.04.2018.

09.04.2018: The Supreme Court directed that the Central Government should submit its Scheme before 03.05.2018.

03.05.2018: The Central Government did not submit the scheme and so the Supreme Court directed that the Central Government should submit its plan to the Court and adjourned the case to 08.05.2018.

07.05.2018: The Tamil Nadu Government filed a sworn affidavit in the Supreme Court urging formation of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee having full powers.

08.05.2018: As the Central Government did not file draft scheme, the Supreme Court directed the Secretary of the Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry to present with the Draft Scheme positively on 14.05.2018.

14.05.2018: Secretary of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation presented the draft scheme before the Supreme Court in person and the copies of the draft scheme were presented to the States concerned to check whether the scheme details were as per the order of the Supreme Court. The case was postponed to 16.05.2018.

15.05.2018: The draft scheme, presented by the Central Government was discussed in detail by the senior Ministers, Chief Secretary, advocates and proper advice was given to the Advocates and officers.

16.05.2018: Based on my advice, senior advocates representing Tamil Nadu skillfully argued with sufficient details that the Central Government should form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee with full powers as recommended by the Tribunal. Based on the arguments, the Court ordered that the Centre should file revised draft scheme on 17.05.2018.

17.05.2018: Instead of Cauvery Management as demanded by us, the Central Government filed a revised Draft scheme by name Cauvery Water Management Authority in the Court.

18.05.2018: The Supreme Court accepted the revised draft scheme and directed the Central Government to publish the revised scheme in the Central Gazette and directed that the authority should come into force before the onset of monsoon and closed the case.

26.05.2018: I wrote letters to Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Union Minister of Water Resources on the need for setting up the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee before the onset of monsoon.

So, I have explained to the Members how this Amma's Government contested the case in the Supreme Court. In addition to that, the members of both the Houses of Parliament forced both the Houses to adjourn for 22 days demanding immediate constitution of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, so that Tamil Nadu got its due share of water in Cauvery. This is to show the Members of the House, the public, and farmers how much pressure the Amma's Government exerted on the Cauvery issue. I wanted to inform the Members of the House through you Sir, (Speaker) that the Government appointed legal experts who argued the case in an exemplary manner and succeeded in safeguarding the rights of the State in the Cauvery.

■

'Government works for public good without malice towards none'

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 31.05.2018 to a question on the participation of the opposition party in the proceedings of the House *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the leader of the opposition in the Assembly in 2006. At one point of time in that session, the AIADMK members (barring Amma) were expelled en masse from the House and barred from entering the House for a period of time. With a view that people's problems should be voiced only in the Assembly and to show how the leader of opposition should act, Hon'ble Amma came to the House alone and spoke for more than an hour. As far as I know, there were 67 interventions during her speech. Many Ministers intervened and spoke. To all of them, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave fitting replies.

So, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was a model on how a leader of the opposition should conduct herself. While adorning the office also (in Government), Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was an exemplar. Hence, I wish to clarify that Amma's Government also conducts itself in the manner of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

All of you are aware of the happenings on that day. No one was evicted from the House by the Speaker. They walked out on their own accord. There is no hurdle for them to come back and perform their democratic duty. Members of the Congress were here; they spoke, staged a walk out and have come back again to perform their duty in a democratic way. They also walked out. If they come back and participate in the House proceedings, there is none to prevent them. It is their wish. As far as the AIADMK Government is concerned, I wish to record, it is functioning as a Government committed to the service of the people.

On the 29th itself, I had very very clearly stated that Amma's Government is working for the permanent closure of the Sterlite factory. This Government does not have malice towards any one. Some good should be done to the people; Amma's Government knows in what way it should be done and it acts accordingly. This I wish to inform the Congress members through You (Speaker) Sir. ■

Survey to assess exact needs of hill areas

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly to a question regarding Forest Department on 31.05.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

At a review meeting of the Forest Department, many issues were examined. Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Secretary and officials of the Department of Forests, the Chief Secretary to Government and Finance Secretary participated in the meeting. It was informed in the meeting about the demands received continuously from 20 Districts for provision of basic amenities to people in hill regions like road, drinking water, health, education, street light and housing.

For implementing these demands, Government is examining a survey jointly by Departments like Revenue, Forest and Local Bodies for assessing the exact needs District-wise, get reports and act on them. Amma's Government will try to take all steps to identify the hill regions that require the Central Government's permission, initiate steps to get the permission and will take necessary action to provide the required basic facilities to people in the hilly regions.

'Massive Victory for Tamil Nadu on Cauvery dispute, rights of our farmers have been vindicated'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 01.06.2018 regarding gazette notification of Cauvery Water Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee by the Central Government *(English Translation)*.

The Union Ministry for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has set up Cauvery Water Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and published the same in the Central Gazette on 01.06.2018. This is a great victory for the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government, which is following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and for the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Sharing Cauvery water, which is the main source of water for agricultural operations in Tamil Nadu, has been a vexatious, long-term issue, especially after 1970. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the present Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government have been handling the Cauvery issue in a skillful manner in protecting the livelihood issue of the Tamil Nadu people.

Due to the sustained efforts of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma through legal battles and the intervention of the Supreme Court, the final order of the Cauvery Water River Dispute Tribunal came into force by publishing in the Central Gazette on 19.02.2013.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma claimed in a meeting with the press that publishing the Final Order of the Cauvery Water River Dispute Tribunal in the Central Gazette was her greatest achievement in her public life of 30 years and in her years of struggle in public life, it was this that gave her the greatest satisfaction. This statement to the people of Tamil Nadu showed how much interest Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in the Cauvery water issue and how much concerned she was over it. Hon'ble Amma's sacrifice is to be remembered on this occasion through Amma's fast for

80 hours on Marina Beach to assert the rights of farmers.

The Supreme Court gave its final verdict on the pending civil disputes regarding Cauvery on 16.02.2018. In that verdict, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to formulate a scheme on the basis of the final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the revised order of the Supreme Court on 16.02.2018 within six weeks and no further extension of time would be given.

In continuation of this order, I met the Hon'ble Prime Minister personally and through letters urged the Prime Minister to set up these bodies immediately. The proceedings of Parliament were disrupted continuously from 05.03.2018 to 06.04.2018 by the MPs belonging to the AIADMK, demanding that the Centre should formulate the scheme. Due to this, Parliament proceedings were adjourned for 22 days.

When the time frame fixed by the Supreme Court was about to lapse, I convened a meeting of senior Ministers, Chief Secretary, Advocate General of the Tamil Nadu Government and other Government officials on 29.03.2018 and discussed in detail about further steps to be taken by the Government. In the meeting, it was decided that a contempt of court petition should be filed in the Supreme Court against the Central Government. The contempt petition was filed in the Supreme Court on 31.03.2018 and the Central Government also filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking time for framing the scheme details.

The Supreme Court on 14.05.2018 directed the Union Ministry for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to present the draft plan in person. The Secretary of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation appeared in person before the Supreme Court on 14.05.2018 and presented the draft plan prepared by the Central Government.

Based on my advice, senior lawyers argued vehemently on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government in the Supreme Court that the Central Government should immediately set up the Cauvery Water Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as mentioned by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

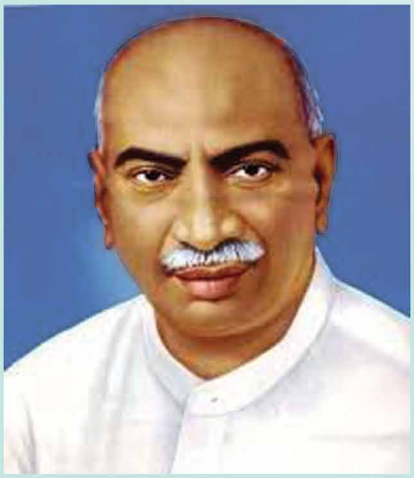
After that the Supreme Court on 18.05.2018 delivered its verdict on the revised draft plan presented by the Central Government. In that verdict, the Supreme Court said that the revised draft plan was in tune with the Final Order of the Tribunal / directions, and the revised order issued by the Supreme Court and the Sec. 6A of the Inter-State River Water Dispute, 1956. Further the report mentioned that the headquarters of the Cauvery Water Management Board will be set up at New Delhi and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee in Bengaluru.

I have sent letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 26.05.2018 demanding that the Cauvery Water Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee be published in the Central Gazette and it should be brought into existence before the on-set of monsoon. Due to sustained efforts of the Hon'ble Amma's Government, which is following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Central Government on 01.06.2018 published the setting up of the Cauvery Water Management Board and the Cauvery River

Water Regulation Committee in the Central Gazette.

The publication of the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in the Central Government's Gazette on 19.02.2013, the continued efforts made by the Hon'ble Amma's Government for implementing the order, the issue of the revised order by the Supreme Court on 16.02.2018 and the publication of the Cauvery Water Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee in the Central Government gazette on 01.06.2018 are all a great victory for Hon'ble Amma's Government and the farming community in the State. Through these orders, the rights of Tamil Nadu and the livelihood of its farmers have been retrieved. I am delighted to express my gratitude to those who worked for this victory.

116th Birth Anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar



Kamaraj: The King Maker

Kamaraj was born on 15 July 1903, in Virudhunagar, Virudhupatti, as it was then known, is a small town in southern Tamil Nadu. His parents, Kumarasamy and Sivakami, belonged to the Nadar caste. His father Kumarasamy ran a coconut shop in Virudhunagar.

His political career afforded him many roles and he is recognized till today for his accomplishments as a Freedom Fighter, Congress party boss, Chief Minister, National Leader, Kingmaker and Opposition Leader.

Of his many achievements, the ones that Kamaraj is remembered most for are bringing school education to millions of the rural poor by introducing free education and the free Midday Meal Scheme during his tenure as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Known for his integrity and his modesty in conduct, Kamaraj exercised his political power for the benefit of the masses and was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1976.

"They say that I am not a degree holder; that I do not know geography, I have never claimed that I have attended a college, Nor do I claim (Knowledge of) college geography, But I also know geography, of course, in my own way. I know almost all the village and towns of Tamil Nadu. The routes to these villages, intervening rivers, important lakes (and) how they can be tapped to useful purpose, the people and their occupation are known to me in the best way possible. I have also visited many places in North India. If this knowledge, which I gained through personal experience, does not form part of geography and if map reading and theoretical knowledge derived from reading geography books alone is geography then let it not be known to me at all."

- Kamaraj on his education and practial experience

Source: Kamaraj
The life and Times of K.Kamaraj
by Bala Jeyaraman

Chief Minister inaugurates pioneering Amma Master Health Check up Schemes

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, inaugurated Amma Master Health Check up and Amma Women Special Master Health Check up schemes at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital at Omandurar Government Estate in Chennai on 08.06.2018.

The Tamil Nadu Government, which is treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is a pioneer in providing the best health care to the people and also succeeded in controlling the impact of infectious and non-infectious diseases. To make available the best quality health services to the poor and the downtrodden , the Tamil Nadu Government has been improving the infrastructure in Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres by equipping them with the latest medical instruments.

If disease is diagnosed at an early stage, it is possible to give correct treatment and cure the patient. As private hospitals charge exorbitant fees for full body check up, poor people cannot afford to undergo full body check up in those hospitals. Realizing the hardship of the poor in this regard, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced master health schemes at affordable cost for the poor.

In the first phase, the Hon'ble Amma announced the introduction of the Amma Master Health Check up and Amma Women Special Master Health Check up schemes at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai on 01.03.2016. Under the scheme, Amma Gold check-up is charged Rs.1,000, Amma Diamond check up Rs.2,000 and Amma Platinum check up Rs.3,000. So far 26,900 persons have undergone the above check up at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital.

Apart from this, in rural areas for those who are above 30 years of age, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced on 01.03.2016, Amma Arokkiya Thittam, in which all medical tests are conducted. At present the Amma Arokkiya Thittam is available in 400 primary health centres, 31 PHCs in town areas and 99 Government Hospitals. Under the scheme, 25 lakh people have benefited.

Hon’ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open a separate wing at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital in Chennai where sophisticated medical instruments worth Rs.2.28 crore have been installed, exclusively for the full body medical check ups. On the occasion, the Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Amma Master Health Check up and Amma Women Special Master Health Check up schemes.

Under the Amma Gold Master Health check up scheme, complete Haemogram, ESR, Urine Analysis, Blood sugar (F and PP), Urea, Creatinine, Uric Acid, Lipid Profiles Total Cholesterol, HDL, LDL, Triglycerides, Total Cholesterol/HDL ratio, Liver Function Test, Serum bilirubin, (total and direct), AST, ALT, SAP, Total Protein and Albumin, HbsAg, Blood grouping and typing, ECG and X-ray Chest, USG Abdomen and Pap Smear. In the Amma Diamond Scheme, apart from the tests in the Gold Scheme, the following tests are also conducted. Echocardiogram, PSA, Thyroid Profile and HbA1C. In the Amma Platinum Scheme apart from the tests in the Gold scheme, the following tests are conducted. Digital Mammogram, (Female above 35 and Dexa Scan, Bone Profile, (Vitamin D, Calcium, Phosphorus and PTH).

Three companies given licence for tapping Neera, making by-products

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 01.06.2018, handed over licenses for tapping neera from coconut trees and making value-added products to Vinayaga Coconut Producers Company Ltd., Pudukkottai Coconut Farmers Producer Company Ltd., and Coimbatore Coconut Producers Company Ltd.

Tamil Nadu stands first in country in the area of cultivation of coconut trees and second in productivity of coconut. It provides livelihood for lakhs of farmers. To help coconut farmers and to improve their earnings, the Tamil Nadu Government has prepared Tamil Nadu Neera Rules 2017 for tapping Neera from inflorescence of coconut palm and making value-added products. From Neera, by-products such as Neera jaggery, Neera syrup, Neera sugar, Neera chocolates, Neera puree and Neera cake can be produced. This will improve employment opportunities in rural areas, besides increasing the revenue for the coconut farmers.

Only those coconut manufacturers who have registered with the Coconut Development Board are permitted to tap Neera from coconut trees and manufacture by-products from Neera.

In this connection, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 01.06.2018 handed over licenses to Vinayaga Coconut Producers Company, Coimbatore Coconut Producers' Company, and Pudukkottai Coconut Farmers Producers Company to tap Neera and produce by-products from Neera.

The State Government will give necessary training to farmers attached to these companies for tapping Neera from inflorescence of coconut palm and produce by-products from Neera. The Government will also provide marketing assistance for sale of Neera and its products, besides refrigeration facilities for preserving them.

'Retain UGC set up, it's functioning well'

D.O. letter dated 14.07.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I write this letter to bring to your kind attention the apprehensions of the Government of Tamil Nadu with regard to the draft Bill on Higher Education Commission of India prepared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry has sought suggestions from all stake holders.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is of the view that the existing institutional arrangement of the University Grants Commission with both regulatory and financial powers is functioning well and that there is no need to disband the University Grants Commission and replace it with Higher Education Commission of India with only regulatory powers.

The present system, where University Grants Commission is entrusted with the responsibilities of maintaining, monitoring and improving the standards of teaching and research in Higher Educational Institutions and also with the power of sanctioning funds under various schemes has been in vogue since 1956 without any complaints. The University Grants Commission has the required capacity for objective evaluation of the proposals received and sanction funds in a transparent manner. The financial powers are an additional enabling mechanism for University Grants Commission to ensure implementation of its recommendations.

In the now proposed draft bill, the financial powers are proposed to be transferred to MHRD, Government of India or some other body. The Government of Tamil Nadu has strong reservations and apprehensions in this regard, as our experience of sanction of funds objectively based on merits to Tamil Nadu has not been very positive by various ministries of Government of India. Further, if this financial power is taken over by MHRD, we apprehend that the funding pattern would change from 100% funding to 60:40 ratio between Government of India and the State Government.

For the reasons cited above, the Government of Tamil Nadu strongly opposes the draft Bill on Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Act 2018 and request that the present institution of University Grants Commission may kindly be continued.

May I request a positive response to my suggestions? ■

Scheme addresses future increases in traffic density

Chief Minister lists manifold benefits of Chennai-Salem green corridor

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 11.06.2018 on the Chennai-Salem Greenfield corridor scheme *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The notification for the laying of the Chennai-Salem Greenfield corridor at a cost of Rs.10,000 crore under the Central Government's 'Bharatmala Prayojana' scheme was issued on 25.02.2018. The scheme will be implemented for a distance of 277.3 km.

The Eight-lane greenfield corridor will run from Tambaram near Chennai to Ariyanur in Salem District and pass through the Districts of Kancheepuram (59.1 km), Tiruvannamalai (123.9 km), Krishnagiri (2 km), Dharmapuri (56 km) and Salem (36.3 km). The road has been allotted the numbers NH 179A for the stretch from Salem to Arur and NH 179B for the stretch from Arur to Chennai.

At present, to reach western Districts from Chennai, the National Highways Chennai-Bengaluru or Chennai-Madurai are used. To go to Salem, one should travel 360 km if the Chennai-Bengaluru highway is taken or 350 km if the Chennai - Madurai highways is taken. The average travel time is about 5 hours.

Accidents are at a high level in both these highways as the density of traffic in them exceeds their capacities by 130 and 160 per cent respectively. In the next 10 years, it is expected that traffic will increase by 1,50,000 Passenger Car Unit (PCU) in these two highways. Widening of these highways, may take in an increased density of traffic, at best, from 60,000 PCU to one lakh PCU.

Though the traffic capacity of this new 8-lane road is 80,000 PCU, its real- term capacity will be 1,50,000 PCU as it is an Express Highway. Added to the present one lakh PCU of these two Highways, 2,50,000 PCU capacity will come into operation. Also direct connectivity between the Greenfield express highway and cross roads has been regulated and provision has been made to cross the road through approach roads and subways. So, incidents of accidents will come down to a large extent and at the same time, the road will withstand the increasing volume of traffic.

If these two national highways are widened in future, land to an extent of 15 metres on either side of each road, that is land to a width of 30 metres has to be acquired. For this, land to an extent of 2,200 hectares has to be acquired. In such an acquisition, 40,000 houses and industrial units, standing on them, have to be demolished. But, to lay this Greenfield express highway, 1,900 hectares of land alone has to be acquired – 300 hectares less land. Of these 1,900 hectares of land, 400 hectares are Government poramboke land. Of the total length of 277.30 kms of this road, 9.955 km long road alone passes through forest area in Chengalpattu, Arani, Polur, Chengam and Arur. That is, of the 1,900 hectares needed for acquisition, 49 hectares alone are forest land. The width of this road is 70 metres but when it passes through forest land, the width will be reduced to 45 to 50 metres.

After the project was announced, some organizations, political parties and leftist units voiced their opposition.

Their contention is that the project will destroy forest trees resulting in damage to environment, mineral deposits in Kanjamalai (Salem) and Kalvarayanmalai (Tiruvannamalai) will be exploited and agricultural lands will be affected.

The alignment of the road has been designed to pass through a minimum of forest area. To compensate the forest area taken up for the road, the District administration will allot twice the extent of that land by changing the category of Government poramboke land and grow forests on it.

This Chennai-Salem road passes through forest area for less than 10 km. Of this, 3.1 km of forest land is for laying the Salem by-pass road. For laying this road, a tunnel is to be dug in the mountain in this forest area without causing any damage to the forest. It is an accepted norm world-wide that tunnelling is the best form of protecting forests.

Also, this express way is laid 10 km away from the sanctuary, national park and protected areas and hence there will be no hindrance or harm to wild animals.

Only a minimum number of trees will be felled for laying this road. Still, 3 lakh tree

saplings will be planted on either side of the road to a width of 10 km. I wish to state that lands for this road will be acquired as per the National Highway Act of 1956. Compensation to land owners will also be given according to the new land acquisition Act. As per this law, the compensation will be a minimum of twice the basic market price in urban areas and two-and-a-half to four times in rural areas. Due compensation for trees, buildings and wells for acquired lands will be given separately. Compensation to buildings will be without calculating depreciation.

Compared to the compensation given for the Central Government's 'golden quadrilateral' and 'north-south' road projects, the compensation being offered at present is four times higher.

When the DMK shared power at the Centre, respected Thiru. T.R.Balu was the Minister for Surface Transport. The compensation proposed to be given now is more than that given at that time. For example, when land was acquired at Ayodhipattinam near Salem Town for a four-lane traffic road in 2007-2008, the compensation given was Rs.8 lakh per hectare of land. Now, a minimum of Rs.20 lakh is given. Compensation given for concrete houses in that area at that time was Rs.100/- per sq. ft.; now it is Rs.340/-; for tiled houses, compensation was Rs. 60/- per sq.ft. then; now it is Rs.200/-; for a coconut tree it was Rs.12,000/- then and now it is Rs.40,000/- per tree.

The Greenfield express highway will reduce the travel distance by 60 km for vehicles going to the western Districts in Tamil Nadu and to Kerala and Karnataka States. The travel time between Chennai and Salem will get halved to 2 hours and 15 minutes. Also, it is estimated that reduction in travel distance will help save diesel consumption to an extent of about Rs.700 crore per year.

Quality roads play an important role in the economic growth of the State, provision of job opportunities and industrial development. In that way, this greenfield express highway will contribute not only to the industrial development of Tamil Nadu but to the increase in individual income and in the gross domestic product. Heavy vehicle traffic, most useful for industrial development, will take less time to reach destinations. Also, trips made by heavy vehicles will increase. This will be greatly useful for industrial development.

The Pimpri-Chinchwad area became industrially developed because of the Mumbai-Pune express highway; the Greater Noida area too became industrially advanced due to Delhi-Agra express highway.

As the vehicles to western zone of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala will take this greenfield corridor, vehicular traffic in the Chennai-Bengaluru and Chennai-Madurai highways will come down, resulting in the reduction of accidents, air and sound pollution greatly.

Besides, plenty of opportunities for industrial development will open up in many taluks inclusive of Vandavasi, Polur, Tiruvannamalai, Chengam and Arur in the industrially backward Districts of Tiruvannamalai and Dharmapuri due to this Greenfield express highway.

You are residing in Tiruvannamalai and I am telling this to you also.

To implement this project, the National Highway Authority of India has opened an office in Guindy, Chennai and land survey and acquisition of lands are done through the respective District Collectors. Work on getting clearance from different Departments is also on. A private company has been entrusted with the task of preparing a detailed project report for this greenfield express highway scheme. This company is engaged in surveying the lands needed for laying this road.

On 02.05.2018, some people prevented taking measurement of lands at Uthamacholapuram in Salem District. Police rushed there immediately and averted any law and order problem from erupting.

In Tiruvannamalai and Dharmapuri Districts also, some opposed measurement of lands. On 01.05.2018 some people protested in front of the Tiruvannamalai Collectorate. I have instructed Department officials to dispel unnecessary doubts raised over this Greenfield express highway and provide correct information to the public.

It is necessary to implement this project as - only a few houses and buildings will be affected; there are no important cities in the alignment of this greenfield express highway; it will ensure safe journey by reducing accidents; it will eliminate capacity-increase need, commensurate with the ever increasing vehicular traffic; attractive compensation will be paid to land owners – two and a half to four times the compensation given during the implementation of the golden quadrilateral project; it will promote economic development in the backward regions through which greenfield express high way will pass through; it will protect priceless human lives by reducing accidents to a large extent since it will be 8-lane traffic road with protective wall; expansion of the two national highways, used at present to reach western Districts, will entail acquisition of 400 hectares of Government poramboke land; the project provides more benefits and less damages.

Hence, I request the general public and organizations to understand the facts, drop the protests and extend co-operation to this project.

When the golden quadrilateral and north-south road projects were implemented, roads were laid in Thoppur forest area on the Krishnagiri-Dharmapuri National Highway, in Perandapalli forest area on the Hosur-Krishnagiri National Highway and in Vallanadu forest area on the Tirunelveli-Thoothukudi National Highway. All these projects were planned by the National Democratic Alliance Government and implemented by the NDA and United Progressive Alliance Governments.

As I am from Salem, I am blamed unnecessarily. I have to explain this fully. Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition stated that plenty of lands are being acquired. When your party member was the Minister in the Central Government, nearly 17 National Highways were taken up. I am not saying it was wrong. But compare the two (land acquisition). You are accusing that more lands are acquired and many people are affected in the road project brought by Hon'ble Amma's Government. I wish to tell this House that accusation is wrong.

Chief Minister opens Rs. 12 crore building for Fisheries University

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 20.06.2018 declared open the administrative building at Pannangudy in Nagapattinam District of the Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, constructed at a cost of Rs.12 crore through video conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the education cum training institute attached with hostel facility for fish-based entrepreneurs and water quality testing laboratory, all costing Rs.6.60 crore and an integrated Dairy Development office premises and 3 modern Aavin Parlours, costing Rs. 38.81 crore.

The Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced in the Assembly on 13.09.2011 that a separate University for Fisheries will be set up in Tamil Nadu to impart knowledge about fisheries and allied industries. The University would be set up at Pannangudy in Nagapattinam District.

The new University has been functioning temporarily on First Beach Road in Nagapattinam since 2012. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma laid the foundation stone for the administrative building of the University on 15.07.2015.

At the MGR centenary celebrations at Nagapattinam, the Hon'ble Chief Minister

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced on 16.02.2018 that the Fisheries University in Nagapattinam would be named ‘Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University’.

The administrative building for this Fisheries University, constructed on a 36,0000 sq.ft. area in Muttam in Pannangudy Village in Nagapattinam District was declared open by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami through video conferencing. The administrative building was constructed at a cost of Rs.12 crore.

The administrative building consists of rooms and offices of the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Research Director, Director of Extension Education, Controller of Examination, Finance Officer and Property officer, Reception room, seminar hall, records room, University Library, Sales centre for value-added fish products, museum and water testing laboratory.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister also declared open the education cum training institute attached with hostel facility for fish-based entrepreneurs, constructed at a cost of Rs.6 crore over 28,000 sq. ft. at the Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University premises at Madhavaram in Tiruvallur District. The training centre was set up with financial assistance from NABARD.

A permanent laboratory for the water quality testing centre for the benefit of fish farmers in Cauvery delta Districts on a 3,800 sq. ft. area was also declared open at the campus of the Directorate of Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture Centre, functioning at Soorakottai in Thanjavur District under Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University. The Centre was set up at a cost of Rs.60 lakh with the financial assistance from the National Agriculture Development Programme.

A 9-storied building and ground floor on a 1,12,000 sq.ft. area, housing all offices of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers’ Union, constructed at a cost of Rs.36 crore was also declared open. The building has the Office of Directorate of Dairy Development, head office of the Producers Union (Aavin), Office of the Director of Milk Co-operative Audit. On the occasion, modern Aavin Parlours were also opened at Sholinganallur in Kancheepuram District, Ambattur Dairy premises, Tiruvallur District and at Anna Nagar Vasantham Colony, all costing Rs.2.81 crore.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister declared open buildings for Fisheries Department and Dairy Development all constructed at a cost of Rs. 57.41 crore.

'Streamlined fool-proof procedures will root out Illegal sand extraction'

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 11.06.2018 to a question put up by Thiru. Durai Chandrasekar, MLA on illegal sand quarrying *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble member has charged that sand is extracted illegally. The Government is taking appropriate action. There is no different opinion on that. During the five years of DMK rule (2006-2011), you took action against 18,000 lorries for mining sand without permit. In these 6 years, Hon'ble Amma's Government has stopped 48,000 lorries quarrying sand without permit. The fine levied in DMK's rule was Rs.50 crore. Hon'ble Amma's Government has intercepted in the last 6 years such lorries transporting sand unauthorisedly, and levied a fine of Rs.120 crore.

Today, sand is an essential article. You (member) said all parties indulged in this. Sand is needed for construction work. Hence, its use has to be brought down gradually and this is the stand of the Government. M-sand should be used. For this, Government is creating awareness among people. A situation has come about where the use of M-sand has started in the construction industry. The general public has also started using it. In course of time, use of river sand will be reduced gradually and the Government will take up steps to ban extraction of sand from rivers and streams.

You (member) have stated that sand should be imported from abroad and sold here. Hon'ble Amma's Government has already called for tenders for that and they are under examination. I wish to inform the member through you (Speaker) that shortly, the tender will be finalized, sand will be imported in a couple of months and distributed to people.

The Government is distributing river sand carefully, after taking all factors into consideration. The lorries that are to transport river sand have all been fixed with GPS gadgets; at the place of excavation of sand from river or streams, cameras have been fixed and PWD officers are stationed. Cameras have been installed at the yard where the excavated sand is brought first and distributed from there. Besides, cash transaction has been banned. The Government is implementing the order that payment should be through the swiping machine or through online. To create awareness on this mode of payment, through the road transport officials, is convening meetings of lorry owners; the Government is also taking action for removal of those who have resorted to fake online registration. I therefore wish to inform the member that the Government is taking all these measures with the intent that sand should be supplied in a proper way to the public and the construction industry and for Government works.

There is no possibility for any error to creep in. A contract is given through e-mail tender and only that contractor can move the river sand to the yard. The yard is located about 25 kms from the river. If the transporting lorry goes beyond that distance, it can be detected easily. The Government will see to it that no mistake, as you apprehend, takes place.

Now, the procedures have been streamlined. As I have already stated, movement of sand from river bed to the Yard has been channelized through the procedure of tender, precisely to prevent mistakes. Members of many parties have bid these tenders. Cameras have been installed at the point where sand is extracted from the river bed. Through those cameras, activities there can be viewed from here itself. No cheating can take place. Technology has been used to that extent. Lorries with GPS alone should be used. All bookings should be through online. No individual can go and remove sand as you have stated. I wish to inform the member through You (Speaker) that only after booking online, sand can be removed from the Yard.

Amma's Government for highways of growth

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 11.06.2018 to the Leader of the Opposition on the Chennai-Salem Greenfield Corridor Scheme *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

During the period 2004 to 2009, 3,029.65 hectares of land had been acquired for this scheme. When your (DMK) MP was Central Minister, to what extent had land been acquired? The Leader of the Opposition had asked where was the need for this road when there were already many roads to reach Salem. This is a road we are getting from the Central Government. We should make use of it when it is made available to us. That should be the stand of a Government. We are in the Opposition (against the central BJP coalition). We are not sharing power at the Centre.

We are placing demands to the Centre not only for this road but for laying many other roads. I am going to elaborate on this in my reply. There are demands from the members of the ruling party, opposition parties, Ministers, Members of Parliament and the general public for the widening of roads in their areas, for quality roads and for construction of bridges. We made a request that the National Highways Authority of India should execute these works. The Central Government had agreed to an extent. I wish to inform the Leader of the Opposition through you (Speaker) that the Central Government is examining an allocation of Rs.75,000 crore for road works in Tamil Nadu.

A golden Bharat rises 'through good conduct'

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami flagged off an exhibition on wheels titled, "Mera Bharat Swarnim Bharat" (My India, Golden India) from his Camp Office in Chennai on 08.06.2018.

The exhibition is being conducted by the Youth Wing of the Brahma Kumaris with the aim of making the youth agents of social change through a positive attitude, inculcating in them a sense of purity, and building their character and good conduct through the learning and practice of yoga.

Addressing the gathering after flagging off the exhibition on wheels, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said, "At the outset, I thank the Hon'ble Ministers, former Ministers and those who worked for the conduct of the exhibition. The exhibition on wheels, inaugurated by me, will tour the whole of Tamil Nadu for the next 40 days. The purpose of the exhibition is to create awareness about yoga among people, especially among the youth. According to the organizers, about 4 lakh people will be benefited by this exhibition. Of that about 3.80 lakh will be youth".

"The youth should be taught about good conduct and how it should be taught is explained in this exhibition pictorially. By practicing good conduct, your heart becomes pure, which ultimately leads to mental peace. I offer my best wishes for the success of the exhibition."

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Manifold buildings for Police force to increase amenities and efficiency

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video-conferencing from the Secretariat on 04.06.2018, barracks and an arms godown for the Tamil Nadu Special Police 4th Battalion. Both were constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.80 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open 283 apartments for Policemen, 12 Police Stations, 12 buildings for the Police Department and a building for the Fire Rescue Operation service station at Natrampalli, all costing Rs. 77,76, 62,000/- The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a community hall at Avadi to be constructed at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

Maintaining peace and law and order in the State, preventing crimes, apprehending criminals and getting them punishment, are some of the main functions of the Police. The Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has implemented many schemes for the Police Department to further improve the working of the Police. These include opening of Police Stations and quarters for Policemen, improving infrastructure of office buildings, and deployment of more vehicles for patrolling.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open, from the Secretariat through video conferencing, barracks and arms godown for Tamil Nadu Special Police 4th Battalion at Kovaipudur in Coimbatore District at cost of Rs.2.80 crore.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced in the Demands for the Police Department during the year 2012-2013, that the Government would set up State Police Master Control Room (SPMCR) to ensure that the public get the service of the Police in time.

As a follow up measure, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, declared open the SPMCR, constructed at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crore at the

Old Police Commissioner's office at Egmore, Chennai.

This SPMCR will co-ordinate with other control rooms such as Fire Service, Medical Department, Railways, Coast Guard and Departments allied with the Police Department. On receiving calls pertaining to allied Departments, the SPMCR will pass on the same to the control room of the Departments concerned for necessary action to help the public.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 16 tenements in the Mounted Police unit in Pudupettai in Chennai Metro, 37 tenements in Nagapattinam Armed Police Campus, 29 tenements in Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli District, 201 tenements in Tamil Nadu Special 11th Battalion in Amathur and Rajapalayaam in Virudhunagar District. Totally 283 tenements, constructed at a cost of Rs.32,56,41,000/- were declared open.

Police Stations in Nolambur, Sankar Nagar, Manali and Guindy in Chennai Metro, Mandarakuppam in Cuddalore District, Tirukattupalli and Peravurani in Thanjavur District, Kavaraipettai and Vellavedu in Tiruvallur District, Highwavys in Theni District, and Varanjaram and Kariyalur in Villupuram District, 12 Police Stations in all, constructed at a total cost of Rs. 9,68,22,000/-.

Quarters for Policemen in Red hills in Chennai Metro, Upgraded hospital for Policemen in Egmore, administrative building for Joint Commissioner (East), Community Hall for Policemen at Kilpauk, State Crimes Record Bureau at Raja Annamalaipuram, Arms godown at Nagercoil in Kanniyakumari District, Crime Investigation Office at Thanjavur, Office for 5 Assistant Commissioners at Tiruchi. Totally 12 buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.23,47, 93,000/-.

In Vellore District fire service and rescue station at Natrampalli at a cost of Rs.61.07 lakh.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open buildings for the Police Department, Prison Department and Fire and Rescue Services Department, all constructed at a cost of Rs.80,56,62,000/-.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami also laid the foundation stone for a community hall for the Policemen at Avadi on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation, to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 10 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami dedicated to the public the mobile App **'Kavalan Dial 100'** and **'Kavalan SOS'** for the protection and benefit of the public.

Public can down load the app 'Kavalan Dial 100' in their Android phones and in case of emergency they can contact the State Police Control Room directly through this App.

The emergency app 'Kavalan SOS' has been developed exclusively for the protection of senior citizens and women. Senior citizens and women can download this app in their cell phones. In case of necessity, it is enough if they touch the vibration mode of the cell phones, information will be passed on their place of residence to the State Police Control Room and SMS message to three friends/relatives whose numbers were registered in their cell phones. ■

Chief Minister dedicates for public use,

27 river bridges, 3 over-bridges, by-pass

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat in Chennai on 04.06.2018 declared open through video conferencing a railway over-bridge, constructed at a cost of Rs.23.37 crore, at Elavur in Tiruvallur District and a by-pass road (Phase II) for Pattukotttai Town, 26 river bridges, and 3 railway over-bridges, all costing Rs. 240.03 crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for 3 railway over-bridges and two by-pass roads, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.381.89 crore.

Realizing the importance of infrastructure for the socio-economic development of the State, the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is keen on increasing the capacity of roads based on the traffic potential, constructs new bridges throughout the State, lays quality roads, wherever necessary and maintains the roads and bridges to ensure safe travel.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, declared open the railway over-bridge at Elavur in Tiruvallur District, constructed at a cost of Rs.23.37 crore through video conferencing and threw the new ROB for public use. The two-way bridge will not only solve the traffic congestion on the Obalapuram-Sunnambukulathur Road, but also help Sunnambukulathur and Elavur Villagers to reach Gummudipundi, Kavarapettai and Tiruvallur Town without much traffic congestion.

In addition, a bridge across River Adyar at Ramavaram in Kancheepuram District, at a cost of Rs.17 crore, a bridge at Kalavai in Vellore District at a cost of Rs.2.90 crore, a bridge at Anappathur in Tiruvannamalai District at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore, at Villupuram District a railway over-bridge at Vikravandi, at a cost of Rs.20.20 crore, a high-level bridge at Aruthangudi, at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore, and a bridge at Kandamanadi, at a cost of Rs.85 lakh;

In Cuddalore District, a bridge across Manimutharu at Devangudi, at a cost of Rs. 13.20 crore, a bridge across Uppanaru in Chidambaram T.S.Pettai, at a cost of Rs. 10.06 crore, a bridge across Melur Odai in Melur, at a cost of Rs. 3.50 crore, and a bridge at Choladhara Srimushnam, at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore;

In Tiruchirappalli District, a bridge across Pungani Canal in Athani, at a cost of Rs.1.70 crore, one bridge each across Pullambadi

Canal and Peruvalai Canal in Manachanallur, at a total cost of Rs. 2.45 crore; in Pudukkottai District, a bridge at Peyadikottai, at a cost of Rs.5.70 crore;

In Thanjavur District, a railway over bridge at Thanjavur Santha Pillai Gate, at a cost of Rs.52.12 crore, a bridge at Vettuvakottai, at a cost of Rs. 1.99 crore, and a by-pass road (second phase) from Athikkottai to Aladikumulai, at a cost of Rs.21.90 crore;

In Nagapattinam District, a bridge across Vellaiyaru in Seruthur, at a cost of Rs. 15 crore, a bridge at Neivilakku Village, at a cost of Rs.2 crore, and a bridge at Pazhaiyapalayam, at a cost of Rs.1.55 crore;

In Dharmapuri District, a railway over-bridge at Muthugoundan Kottai, at a cost of Rs.20.31 crore, and a bridge at Pethathampatti, at a cost of Rs.2.20 crore;

In Dindigul District, a bridge at Palaru Village, at a cost of Rs.6.22 crore, and a bridge at Sindhuvarpatti, at a cost of Rs. 1.76 crore; in Ramanathapuram District, a bridge at Melakodumalur, at a cost of Rs. 6 crore, a bridge across Kiruthamal river at Vallakulam, at a cost of Rs.4.96 lakh, in Virudhunagar District, a bridge across Vaipparu in Sattur, at a cost of Rs. 16.50 crore, and a bridge at Sathurapatti, at a cost of Rs.1.46 crore;

In all, 27 river bridges, 3 railway over-bridges, and a by-pass road, all costing Rs. 263.40 crore, were dedicated for public use by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

In addition, foundation stones were laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for 3 railway over-bridges, one each at Pattabiram in Tiruvallur District, at a cost of Rs. 52.11 crore, at Annanur, at a cost of Rs. 52.99 crore and at Putlur, at a cost of Rs.33.09 crore and two by-pass roads, one at Kelambakkam and the other at Tiruporur on the Old Mahabalipuram Road, at a total cost of Rs.243.70 crore.

The House conventionally does not discuss such 'Sub Judice' matter

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the Thoothukudi incident in the Assembly on 07.06.2018 (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

A commission headed by a retired High Court judge has now undertaken a full-fledged inquiry into the events that took place in connection with the Sterlite issue. A case has also been filed in the High Court on this issue and that is also being heard. It is not the tradition of the House to discuss an event or a subject matter that is sub judice. Respected Thiru. Durai Murugan, former DMK Minister and now the deputy leader of the DMK legislature party has pointed this out. He has stated that discussing a sub judice matter is not the tradition of the House. On that basis, I wish to inform through You (Speaker) that the Inquiry Commission can be approached regarding any event/issue connected with Sterlite.

Chief Minister adduces substantive reasons for filing of case against private TV channel

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 11.06.2018 on the cases filed in connection with the objectionable remarks recorded at the 'Puthiya Thalaimurai' TV Channel's Round Table debate event at Coimbatore City *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The 'Puthiya Thalaimurai' TV Channel approached the office of the Coimbatore City Police Commissioner on 04.06.2018 to seek details for applying for permission to conduct a Round Table Conference at the auditorium of a private college in Aavaarampalayam, Peelamedu, Coimbatore City on the evening of 08.06.2018 as an indoor meeting. The topic of the debate was "Serial Agitations – Are they for fundamental rights? or for political reasons?". The Police had advised the TV channel that holding such controversial meetings in the religiously sensitive Coimbatore City would lead to law and order problem.

The TV Channel personnel sought permission to display atleast flex boards at important places in the City about the event as it was an indoor

meeting and as arrangements for the event had already been made. The Police refused permission. Thiru. Sureshkumar, reporter of the TV channel again approached the Police with the same request. The Police explained that the event would become an approved one if Police issued a no objection certificate even if it was an indoor meeting. Thiru. Sureshkumar sought oral permission citing the TV channel's continuous telecasting about the event. The Police turned down the suggestion, stating there was no scope for it.

Still, Thiru. Sureshkumar presented a letter at the Peelamedu Police station on 05.06.2018, seeking permission for the holding of the Round Table Conference event. The Writer at the station received the letter and said a reply would be given after informing the higher officials.

In this situation, the 'Puthiya Thalaimurai' TV channel proceeded with its event on 08.06.2018, headed by its administrative editor Thiru. Karthikaiselvan, without Police permission. The participants in the Round Table Conference discussion were Thiru. Semmalai, AIADMK MLA from Mettur Constituency, Thiru. T.K.S.Elangovan, State Organising Secretary of the DMK, Tmt. Thamizhisai Soundararajan, State President of BJP, Thiru. Gnanadesikan, former MP of Tamil Maanila Congress, Thiru. K. Balakrishnan, State Secretary of CPI(M), Thiru. Thaniarasu, MLA and Founder President of Tamil Nadu Kongu Ilaignar Peravai, Thiru. Ameer, Film Director and Thiru. S.K. Thamizharasan. About 800 persons had assembled at the auditorium to witness the event. Though Police did not give permission, it provided bandobust to the event as leaders of many political parties and organizations were participating.

The event started at 5.55 p.m. and went on without any incident for nearly one-and-a-half hours. But there was a flutter in the audience when Thiru. Thaniarasu, MLA started referring to the demolition of Babri Masjid and other matters unconnected with the topic of the discussion. Later, when Film Director Ameer expressed some controversial views, a section of the audience, supporting a particular party, protested and shouted derogatively. Despite the efforts of that party's State President to calm down the audience, shouting and confusion prevailed and the event was brought to a close at 8.05 p.m.

Though it was an indoor meeting, an inspector and more than 40 constables posted there on security duty, intervened immediately, controlled the crowd and escorted out the leaders safely from the auditorium and made adequate security arrangements in the City and saw to it that no law and order problem arose.

The Police registered a case against Film Director Thiru. Ameer on a complaint given by Thiru. Sundararajan, auditorium-in-charge in the Peelamedu Police Station on 09.06.2018.

On the same day, Thiru. Anandakumar, manager of the auditorium lodged a complaint in the Peelamedu Police station urging initiation of appropriate action against the Reporter of the TV channel Thiru. Sureshkumar and against the TV channel. In that complaint, Thiru. Anandakumar had stated that Thiru. Sureshkumar booked the auditorium saying the Round Table Conference event would be conducted with students but invited persons holding opposite views to participate in the debate. The event was conducted without imposing restrictions on them, without making any prior arrangements for registering,

monitoring and controlling the persons attending the event and allowing some persons to speak, knowing well that problems would erupt if controversial issues were raised. Problems were created in this way.

In this connection, the Police have registered a case – crime no. 964/2018 – under Sections 153(A), 505 of IPC and under Sec.3(1) of the Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Act. A copy of the First Information Report filed against the Puthiya Thalaimurai TV channel at the Peelamedu Police station on 10.06.2018 was handed over to that channel's newsperson Miss. Iswarya.

The edited version of the event, cutting out some portions including the controversial views expressed by Film Director Thiru.Ameer, the problems that ensued and the Police evacuating the hall, is now being telecast. But the Police have in their possession the un-edited video recording including the objectionable speech of Thiru. Ameer.

The Police have registered two cases against the TV company and against Thiru. Ameer who spoke objectionably at the event, solely on the complaints lodged by the college administration. The private TV channel had conducted the event without getting Police permission, booking the auditorium by providing false information to the college administration. It failed to make proper arrangements and impose restrictions, resulting in the creation of a situation leading to a clash between sections of the audience. The Police are investigating further.

In this Round Table Conference event, the Thoothukudi events were also discussed. When total peace prevails in Thoothukdi, such discussions can disturb law and order there. Such discussions should have been avoided when cases connected with Thoothukudi events are pending in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court and a Commission, headed by retired judge Tmt. Aruna Jagadeesan is inquiring into the events.

Since sufficient number of constables were posted on security duty at the event as a precautionary measure, they could immediately intervene, prevent clashes and safely escort out all people when the problem arose.

Some newspaper associations and leaders of some political parties have urged the withdrawal of the cases registered by the Police. As Police are investigating, I wish to state that action will be taken on the basis of the investigation report.

Hon'ble Amma's Government always respects and gives priority to freedom of speech and Press freedom. Still Government has the prime responsibility to take preventive action if such events are likely to affect religious sensibilities or law and order.

I wish to tell through this House that the media should function responsibly by raising questions to itself as in this case: can controversial views be aired in a religiously sensitive Coimbatore City, can events be held under topics that are likely to affect the general peace and debating events conducted with participants known for recording viewpoints deliberately in a way as to affect law and order.

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition stated that cases had been filed against the participants there under the National Security Act. Through you (Speaker), I wish to tell the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition that no case has been filed under that Act.

Kuruvai package will help tap groundwater to offset non-release of Mettur water

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 08.06.2018 over the release of water from Mettur Dam for Kuruvai cultivation *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Leader of the Opposition and the leaders of the legislature parties of Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League have staged a walk out criticizing the non-release of water from Mettur dam on the scheduled date of June 12 (for kuruvai cultivation).

I wish to share some information with the House. During President's rule of the State in 1988-1989, water from Mettur dam was not released on June 12 but it was done only on 07.08.1988. In 1989-1990 during the DMK's rule, water was not released for kuruvai cultivation on June 12 but it was done so on 20.08.1989. In that party's rule in 1996-1997, the dam was opened on 26.07.1996. In 1999 also, when the DMK was in power, water was released on 01.07.1999 and not on June 12. In 2007-2008, the DMK Government released water from Mettur dam only on 18.07.2007 and not on June 12. In the years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 also, when the DMK was ruling the State, water was not released on June 12 but it was done on 28.07.2009 and 28.07.2010 respectively.

So, it is clear that there is no history that water was released on June 12 in all the years of DMK rule. The dam can be opened only when there is water. The leader of the Congress party knows this because he is a farmer. If there is a good monsoon, inflow will be high resulting in good storage in Mettur dam. If there is good storage, water will be released. The minimum water level in the dam should be 90 ft. for releasing water for irrigation. If the level is less, crops will wither due to paucity of water. Farmers will incur loss.

The Government's intention also is to release water in time. But there is no sufficient storage. There is less water in the dam due to the failure

of the monsoon and hence water could not be released. Still, Amma's Government has announced today a kuruvai package scheme as it is a Government that cares for the welfare of the farmers. It has allotted Rs.115 crore for the implementation of the scheme. I have already listed them.

Farmers used to raise kuruvai crop in 3.15 lakh acres every year if water is released in time on account of good monsoon. Through the distribution of funds to farmers under this kuruvai package scheme, Amma's Government has created a condition for raising the crop in 3 lakh acres –without much reduction in the normal area of cultivation. Through this House I wish to state that Amma's Government is keen to see that farmers do not suffer on any account.

The leader of the opposition has staged a walk out protesting against the non-release of water in time. You (Congress) too staged a walk out. You should ponder over this. Kuruvai crop is raised only in 3.15 lakh acres. Hon'ble Members should understand that Amma's Government has today allotted and distributed funds to farmers through the kuruvai package scheme so that they can tap ground water in a regulated way and cultivate paddy and other crop varieties on the same extent of land as in normal years. So, Amma's Government is extending necessary help to farmers. I wish to inform, through you (Speaker) Sir, to the leader of the Congress party and the members of the DMK party, even though they (the DMK) are not in the House, that Amma's Government is interested in improving farmers livelihood and their status by helping them raise kuruvai paddy and other crops through distribution of funds under the kuruvai package scheme.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

When Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was alive, water was released earlier to June 12 – that is on June 6 – only in 2011. In 2001-2002, during Amma's regime, water was released on June 12. So, whenever there is sufficient storage, Amma's Government has released water on the scheduled date. Since there is less water in the dam now, because of the failure of the monsoon, a situation has arisen where water could not be released on June 12. Still, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member, through you (Speaker) Sir, that sufficient funds have been allotted under the kuruvai package scheme, to help farmers cultivate kuruvai paddy and other crops in the same extent of land as in normal times – about 3.15 lakh acres.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Mettur dam was opened before June 12 on 10 times; on June 12, 16 times; after June 12, 17 times; in the month of July, 25 times; in the month of August for 10 times and after the month of August for 5 times. These are the details about the water releases in the last 83 years after the construction of Mettur Dam. So, if there is availability of water, it will be released. Whether it be your rule or ours, the dam can be opened only if there is water. I have already given details about the dates of water release during different periods when your party ruled the State. When Hon'ble Amma was alive, water was released in advance – on 06.06.2011 – for kuruvai cultivation as water storage in the dam was good. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member, through you (Speaker) Sir, that it was Amma's Government that had released water in advance on June 6, against the scheduled date of June 12.

Appointment letters on compassionate grounds

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 04.06.2018 handed over appointment orders for the posts of record clerks, office assistants, weighing machine assistants and guards to the dependants of 20 employees of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, who died in harness. As a beginning, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment letters to 2 persons. Also 488 part-time employees, who were working as part-time record clerks and assistants in the Corporation's direct procurement centres in various zones have been made permanent record clerks. As a beginning, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment letters to 5 of them.

There is a provision in the laws of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to give appointments as record clerk, office assistants, weighing machine assistants and guards to the dependants of employees who die in harness, based on their qualification.

As a mark of giving appointment letters to the dependants of employees of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, who died in harness, 13 persons have been appointed as record clerks, and 7 persons as office assistants, weighing machine assistants and guards. Totally 20 persons were given appointment and as a beginning, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment orders to 2 persons.

Also 488 part-time employees ,working in the direct procurement centres of the Corporation in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Karur, Villupuram, and Perambalur regions, have been made permanent as record clerks (Class III). The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the appointment letters as a beginning to five employees.

Tamil Nadu stands foremost among States implementing Crop Insurance Scheme

The Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme kharif 2016 has been implemented throughout Tamil Nadu except Chennai under the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a view to safeguard the livelihood of farmers affected by crop failure.

The scheme is being implemented through the Agriculture Insurance Company of India, New India Assurance Company Limited and ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company in the Districts of Tamil Nadu, except Chennai, which are divided into three groups.

Due to effective steps taken by the State Government in implementing the scheme, about 31.85 lakh hectares of land cultivated by 15.37 lakh farmers in 31 Districts of Tamil Nadu except Chennai, have been insured. Tamil Nadu has not only achieved the distinction of registering the maximum number of farmers under the scheme, but also stands first in enrolling 78 per cent (roughly 12 lakh farmers) of non-loanee farmers. The State paid its share of insurance premium of Rs. 565 crore to insurance companies.

The compensation to be paid to farmers by the insurance companies has been calculated in time during the financial year 2016-2017 by the Tamil Nadu Government. Based on this calculation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated the distribution of compensation to affected farmers on 24.04.2017 and directed officials of Departments concerned to take speedy measures to disburse the compensation to farmers as early as possible.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister appealing to him to instruct the insurance companies to disburse speedily the compensation to farmers for the financial year 2016-2017 under the extended samba crop insurance scheme, and compensation for farmers, who insured their crops during Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-2017.

Following this, Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd., sanctioned Rs.103.15 crore for the extended period. The other insurance companies - New India Assurance Company Ltd., and ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company - are also disbursing the compensation to the affected farmers for the extended insurance scheme on the advice of the Central Government.

On this basis, the insurance companies have agreed to pay the compensation of Rs.3,265.39 crore to the farmers whose crops were affected due to drought during the financial year 2016-2017. The compensation amount is being credited into the bank accounts of the affected farmers.

When compared to other southern states affected by drought, Tamil Nadu tops the country in payment of maximum compensation to the affected farmers.

Lauding the State Government's performance, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations has said that the Tamil Nadu Government paid compensation to the majority of farmers whose crops were affected by drought. Tamil Nadu stands as a model to other States in providing harvest details and in payment of subsidy for insurance premium to the insurance companies.

On the advice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the State Government has been insisting on the insurance companies to sanction the compensation of Rs.453 crore to the affected farmers. Of this, Nagapattinam District is expected to get Rs.75 crore, Thoothukudi District Rs.66 crore, Thanjavur Rs.54 crore, and Villupuram District Rs.40 crore.

All these measures show that the State Government is like fortress in protecting the interest of the farmers.

News in Picture

On the 92nd Birth Anniversary of Kavi Arasu Kannadasan on 24.06.2018 Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, Archaeology Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, South Chennai MP Dr. J Jayavardhan and Director, Department of Information and Public Relations Dr. P.Sankar I.A.S. and high Government Officials paid floral tribute on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to a portrait of the poet placed near his statue at T.Nagar, Chennai.

Centre urged to put on hold its decision to legislate on dam safety

D.O. letter dated 15.06.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The media has widely reported that the Union Cabinet on 13.06.2018 has given its approval to the draft Dam Safety Bill, 2018.

As you are aware, when the draft Dam Safety Bill, 2016, was circulated by the Government of India, my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 11.09.2016 conveyed Tamil Nadu's objections to certain clauses of the draft Bill, 2016, since they encroach upon the powers of the State Governments and also the rights conferred on the State by virtue of Inter-State Agreements on the Dams owned, operated and maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu but located in other State. Hence, it was urged that a legislation on Dam Safety should be re-examined and it should not be proceeded with, in haste, without considering the objections raised by Tamil Nadu threadbare.

The Government of India has not circulated any revised draft after 2016 and it is presumed that the Bill in its original form has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 13.06.2018. This Bill would have wide ramifications on the Dams operated and maintained by State Government especially those Dams which are owned operated and maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu, but are located in the neighbouring State.

I consider it appropriate that consensus of all the States be obtained before bringing forward such a legislation on Dam Safety.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly keep in abeyance the decision arrived at by the Government of India to legislate an Act on Dam Safety till such time all the States are consulted and consensus is evolved.

I look forward to your immediate reply in the matter.

Chief Minister thanks Prime Minister for selecting Thoppur for AIIMS

D.O. letter dated 20.06.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu and on my personal behalf, I thank you, Sir, for selecting the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Thoppur in Madurai District.

At this moment, I would like you to recall that my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was very keen that an institution of the stature of AIIMS is established and made functional in Tamil Nadu, as it would substantially augment the facilities in the State for providing quality medical education, research and also ensure high-end tertiary level health care in the public sector to benefit the poor and middle classes of the State.

Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu had recommended five locations which were fully eligible to have an AIIMS.

I am informed that the Government of India has chosen Thoppur at Madurai for establishing the prestigious AIIMS project in Tamil Nadu.

I would once again thank you for having taken the project to the next stage by finalizing the location from among the five sites recommended by the State. I have directed the Hon'ble Minister and Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department and other senior officials to provide all necessary support to Government of India so as to facilitate the early commencement of work.

More housing facilities, buildings for Tirunelveli District Police

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 20.06.2018 declared open through video conferencing, 73 tenements for Policemen in Tirunelveli District, constructed at a cost of Rs.9,4,90,000/-. In addition to this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated 46 tenements for Policemen, 6 Police Stations, 7 buildings for the Police Department and 7 Fire and Rescue Services Stations on behalf of the Home Department.

Maintaining law and order and peace in the State, preventing crimes and bringing the culprits to book by getting them punishment are some of the core functions of the Police Department. With a view to encouraging the Police Force, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing many schemes. These include construction of houses for Policemen, opening new Police Stations, improving the infrastructure of the office buildings for Police Department and introduction of new patrol vehicles.

In this connection, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open 73 tenements at Suthamalli in Tirunelveli District.

3 tenements at Padalur in Perambalur District, 23 in Munneerpallam in Tirunelveli District and 20 in Thimmampatti in Vellore District. The total cost for 46 tenements is Rs.6, 18,06000/-.

Ariyalur Traffic Police Station in Ariyalur District, Kammapuram Police Station in Cuddalore District, All-Women Police Stations in Mahabalipuram in Kancheepuram District, Tiruvadanai in Ramanathapuram District, Gummudipoondi and Ponneri in Tiruvallur District: a total of 6 Police Stations costing Rs.2,68, 89,000/- were declared open.

A godown for the intelligence wing of the Anti-narcotic smuggling unit, quarters for Deputy Commissioners with camp office at Melur in Madurai District and Kottaipattinam in Pudukkottai District, Office for Home Guards at Tiruppur in Tiruppur District, Special Investigation Department Office at Tiruvarur in Tiruvarur District, and Coast-guard Police Stations at Pazhaverkadu in Tiruvallur District and Sadhurangapattinam in Kancheepuram District. Totally 7 Police Station, at a cost of Rs.2,15,94,000/-.

7 Fire and Rescue Service Stations, one each in Kumarapalayam in Namakkal District, Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District, Kinathukadavu and Sulur in Coimbatore District and Ottapidaram in Thoothukudi District, Peralam in Tiruvarur District and Chennai High Court Complex in Madurai were opened. The total cost is Rs. 7,29,70,000/-.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open buildings for Police Station, Fire and Rescue Service Stations at various places in the State from the Secretariat through video conferencing. The total cost of the buildings is Rs.27,37, 49,000/-.

'Centre to implement Central station skywalk'

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, in the Legislative Assembly to the DMK Member I.Periyasami on 11.06.2018 *(EnglishTranslation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Central Government has announced that the Skywalk scheme will be implemented by the Centre in the Chennai Central station. So the Tamil Nadu Government has not taken up the scheme. Since the Central Government said that it would implement the Skywalk scheme in Chennai Central, the State Government has not taken up the scheme.

‘Talks did happen with Sterlite protestors’

Clarification of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 12.06.2018 over JACTO-GEO agitation and on Thoothukudi Sterlite Copper Smelter factory *(English Translation).*

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

A view was expressed here that JACTO–GEO association should be invited for talks. The Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister has clarified the steps taken by the Government. A committee has been set up for that. He has clearly stated that the committee’s implementable suggestions alone can be carried out after the submission of its report.

The Thoothukudi incidents were also referred to. Already 14 rounds of talks were held by the District Collector and Sub Collector with the protesters. It is not correct to say that talks were not held. Talks were held several times. The Pollution Control Board rejected on 09.04.2018 the Sterlite company’s application for extension of its operations for 5 more years on the basis of those talks. The Thoothukudi District Collector had publicized the rejection of application through newspapers. A statement was issued that Sterlite factory would not function due to the cancellation of its licence by the Pollution Control Board had been published in all newspapers.

The electricity supply to that factory was cut on 23.04.2018 after inspection by the The Pollution Control Board on 18.04.2018. Hon’ble Leader of the Opposition stated that talks were not held with the protesters. It is not so. The District Collector and Sub-Collector held talks many times with them. The Agitation Committee alerted the authorities about the Sterlite company’s move to get extension for its operations and voiced opposition to it, as the factory’s operation led to pollution. The Pollution Control Board examined it and rejected Sterlite’s application when that company sought extension of its operations. That was also published in newspapers.

Manifold measures on farm front to ensure prosperity of farmers

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 14.06.2018 under Rule 110 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been taking different steps to develop the agriculture industry, the basis for economic growth, and to usher in prosperity in the lives of farmers. I make the following announcements in this House in this regard.

1. The Tamil Nadu Government framed a 'solar energy policy' in 2012 for utilizing in several ways the abundant solar energy available in the State and is implementing the same. So far, 3,112 solar energy pump sets and 181 solar dryers have been installed on a subsidy of Rs.117.24 crore. Solar energy pump sets will be installed at 90 per cent subsidy to those who have been enjoying free power supply and those who have applied for electricity connections, if they come forward to renounce their electricity connections.

Considering the great need felt among farmers for solar energy pump sets, 500 more such pump sets will be installed at 90 per cent subsidy in non-delta areas. This is, besides the installation of 500 solar energy pump sets announced for delta Districts along with the 'kuruvai package scheme'. Installation of the total of 1,000 solar energy pump sets will be at a cost of Rs.50 crore.

2. The need for millets like maize, kambu, ragi, thinai, samai, varagu, panivaragu and kuthiraivali which are rich in nutrition, is increasing in Tamil Nadu. Hence, by way of increasing millet production, Rs.6.62 crore will be allotted in the current year for works like production and distribution of seed, group demonstration, integrated crop protection, nutrition management and distribution of green fodder.

3. In the area of plantain cultivation, Tamil Nadu is in the second place at the National level. Plantain is a heavily water consuming plant. To avert any shrinkage in the area of plantain cultivation due to water scarcity, the Government is embarking on a water management plan for thrifty use of water. Farmers will be given a subsidy of Rs.27.83 crore in the current year for installation of micro-irrigation structures in 10,000 acres of plantain cultivation.

4. Adoption of high technology ensures quality production. For adopting high technology like cultivating vegetables in protected environment such as green house and shade net house and for taking to Trellis-based cultivation and canopy farming for vegetables and fruits from creeper plants, Rs. 10 crore will be provided.

5. There are good job opportunities for diploma holders in horticulture. At present, this diploma course is conducted only by the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops at Madhavaram near Chennai. To provide this 2-year diploma course (Diploma in Horticulture) to more students, it will be started in the current academic year at the Horticulture Research and Training Centre at Thali in Krishnagiri District and at the centre of excellence for vegetables at Reddiarchatram in Dindigul District. The in-take in each college will be 50 students every year. These two centres will get affiliation and recognition of the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University and function through the Horticulture and Plantation crops Department. Besides the infrastructure facilities created already in these two centres for students'study, Rs. 2 crore will be given to create more facilities. The Centre at Madhavaram,Tiruvallur District will also get affiliation and recognition of the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University and function through the Horticulture Department.

6. Agriculture Extension Centres with storage facility for agricultural inputs and seminar hall have been constructed at a cost of Rs.219 crore in 146 Taluks. These centres enable officials of all Departments to function at one place so as to provide extension services of all agriculture related Departments to farmers at one place. Besides Agriculture, the Departments covered are Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Agri-marketing, Seed Certification and Certification for the organic nature of the product. I wish to state that in the current year, such extension centres will come up in 9 more Taluks at a cost of Rs.18 crore.

7. Udhagamandalam, popularly known as the "Queen of Hills" is 200 years old and is one of the prime tourist centres. Considering the ever increasing tourists visit to the botanical garden there, a new 'Bi-centenary Green Meadow' will be set up in the current year on a 80 acre area in Nilgris District at a cost of Rs.10 crore. As more than 10 lakh tourists visit the Government Rose Garden every year, there is traffic congestion and there is great difficulty in parking vehicles. Hence, a parking lot to accommodate 500 vehicles will be set up at a cost of Rs.3 crore.

I am happy to inform this House that the schemes I have announced, costing Rs.127.45 crore totally, will enrich further agriculture and farmers' livelihood.

HANDLOOM, HANDICRAFT, TEXTILES AND KHADI DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Next to agriculture, the main livelihood for rural people is the weaving industry and it plays an important role in creating direct and indirect job opportunities and in increasing the export revenue of the country. Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, gives priority to the growth of such an essential industry and has taken many steps towards it. In continuation of that, I am making the following announcements in this House regarding this sector.

1. The free dhoti-saree scheme is implemented every year to fulfill the twin objectives of ensuring jobs to handloom and powerloom weavers continuously and to meet the textile demands of the poor in rural and urban areas. To provide job opportunities to the handloom and pedal looms round the year, orders for additional production will be given as follows:

(i) For handloom weavers, orders for additional production will be placed from 2019 Pongal to the month of June;

(ii) Of the total pedal looms, 9,692 looms are engaged in the production of dhotis and sarees for six months–July to December – under distribution of dhotis and sarees at no cost scheme. The remaining 1,558 looms will be given orders for additional production in these six months.

(iii) The 4,275 pedal looms not engaged in production under the scheme for distribution of uniforms at no cost will be given additional production orders under the dhoti-saree distribution at no cost scheme for five months – from February to June;

(iv) All the 11,250 pedal looms that remain idle in the month of January every year will be given orders for additional production under dhoti-saree distribution at no cost scheme.

For these, Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs.15 crore per year.

2. An International textile exhibition will be conducted in the current year on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government at the Codissia auditorium at Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.2 crore for boosting the growth of textile industry in the State further.

3. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Textile Processing Mill's main work is to process the fabrics for uniforms, given under the Tamil Nadu scheme for free distribution of uniforms. The mill works to full capacity on this work for 7 months – from February to August. For the rest of the 5 months, its capacity is under-utilised as there are no sufficient fabrics for processing. With a view to provide job continuously for the workers and to help the mill earn profit, a dyeing unit with a 60S Gomed yarn dyeing capacity of two tonnes per unit will be set up at a cost of Rs.4 crore.

4. Tamil Nadu occupies the premier place at the National level in Bivoltine silk production. Two multi-level refrigeration units with a capacity of processing 20 lakh silk eggs are functioning at Hosur and Krishnagiri in Krishnagiri District. To increase the production of 'bivoltine' eggs and process them, yet another unit of multi-level refrigeration with a capacity of processing 20 lakh eggs will be set up at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.

5. There are not enough silk reeling units to utilize fully the cocoons produced in Tamil Nadu. To strengthen the post-cocoon silk reeling sector, financial assistance, as Government share, for setting up silk reeling units, will be given as follows:

(a) Rs. 1,05,77,000/- will be given to set up 3 automatic silk reeling units with 400 ends Rs.19.96 lakh will be given to set up one automatic silk reeling unit with 200 ends.

(b) Rs.11.44 lakh will be given to set up an automatic silk reeling unit .

(c) Rs.1,06,81,000/- will be given to set up 25 multi-end silk reeling units with 100 ends. I resume my seat stating Rs.10.04 lakh will be given to set up 2 private silk twisting units and one Government silk twisting unit.